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AGRI-NEWS

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MAY 16 1989

May 1, 1989

For immediate release

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Information Services Division

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May 1, 1989
For immediate release

Don't stop feeding cattle yet

With the first sign of green grass each spring farmers usually get a strong urge to turn cattle out to pasture, but they should wait to help both their cattle and their grass says an Alberta Agriculture animal nutritionist.

"Even when feed supplies are plentiful, the desire to get cattle out of crowded, wet wintering areas is strong. However, cattle shouldn't be allowed to graze a pasture in the spring until there is a minimum of six inches of new growth," says Dale Engstrom.

Producers need to consider what an early pasture turnout means for both cattle and grass, he says. "There is no 'free lunch'. What you might gain by turning your cattle out early, you may lose by suffering reduced grass growth, reduced weight gains and reduced fertility.

"New grass should be at least six inches tall before cattle are put in the pasture. If new growth is less than that height, cattle likely will be undernourished," he says.

In suckled cows, undernourishment means weight loss. Breeding can be delayed in undernourished cows that are less than 50 to 60 days post partum. Engstrom says in one study cows that lost condition after calving required an average of 60 days to return to heat, while cows maintaining condition required only 32 days.

Pregnancy rates also suffer in cows that lose weight. In a 1980 experiment, embryo mortality was 46 per cent in cows that lost weight after calving versus 24 per cent in cows that gained weight.

Yearling cattle are also affected by being turned out to pasture too early, he says. "Yearlings tend to wander far and wide when they are turned out into large pastures with inadequate grass growth. The result is weight loss for the first two or three weeks rather than weight gain. With interest charges alone being 20 to 25 cents per head per day the financial consequences of weight loss are considerable."

(Cont'd)

Don't stop feeding cattle yet (cont'd)

Grass also suffers if it is grazed too early. When eaten off before it reaches a minimum of six inches in height, the rate and amount of re-growth is restricted. "The yield of grass, and therefore, beef from the pasture for the rest of the year will be reduced. The extent of the reduction will vary depending how closely the first growth of grass has been grazed," he says.

Engstrom says producers do have an option if cattle have to moved out of undesirable wintering areas before the pasture is ready. "A small portion of the pasture could be fenced off and full feeding could be continued."

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Contact: Dale Engstrom
436-9150

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May 1, 1989
For immediate release

New swine genetic evaluation system

Swine breeding stock tested in the Alberta Swine Improvement Program will now undergo a new high tech genetic evaluation.

Estimated Breeding Values (EBV's) will be calculated for backfat and growth rate, says Alberta Agriculture's Art Lange, supervisor of the Swine Improvement Program.

A number of genetic factors besides the animal's own performance are included in the EBV calculation. Lange says most important is including the performance of the test animal's ancestors and siblings. Heritability (or how much of a characteristic is inherited), the amount of information available on relatives, the amount of genetic competition within herds and genetic trends in the breed are also taken into consideration.

"The advantage is that the EBV's estimate the real genetic value of a potential breeding boar or sow before he or she is put into service," he says.

Regional swine technicians can do the test and provide computer generated results right at the participating producer's farm, he says. The test result for young boars and gilts includes measurements for backfat, growth rate, an index comparing the animal to others across Western Canada and a 'repeatability' percentage.

For example, says Lange, an EBV fat reading of -0.8 mm means the animal is 0.8 mm genetically leaner than all of the pigs of the same breed currently tested in the program in Western Canada.

Similarly a growth rate of -6.4 means the pig has the genetic potential to achieve market weight 6.4 days faster. The index combines back fat and growth rate into a number and allows comparison to others in the same breed. The average index for each breed and sex is 100. An index of 139, for example, places the pig in top ten per cent of its breed.

(Cont'd)

New swine genetic evaluation system (cont'd)

The repeatability factor measures the reliability percentage of the EBV. "For example, if the test repeatability was 52, that means the EBV is 52 per cent reliable. This factor will increase as more information on the pedigree and siblings become available. If the example pig is used for breeding, the repeatability numbers in the test will go up as information on progeny becomes available. The values could reach 90 per cent or more," he says.

"One of the best features of the new system is that swine breeding stock buyers can now compare the genetic value of breeding stock across farms and test stations," says Lange. "This is something they've wanted to do for many years, but our previous systems couldn't accommodate.

Producers can get more information about the EBV program by requesting copies of the Provincial Probe Report that is issued twice a month from Alberta Agriculture district offices, from regional swine specialists or technicians or by direct mailing.

"Commercial producers now have a powerful new tool to help them select breeding stock objectively. When the EBV information is combined with herd health information available from Alberta Agriculture's animal health division, the commercial producers have objective systems for determining both genetics and health. Selection for physical soundness using subjective judgement is also necessary," he says.

The Swine Improvement Program, formerly the Swine Record of Performance Program (ROP), is a joint federal-provincial project operating in all provinces. "Canada is the first country in the world to institute a national swine genetic evaluation system of this magnitude," Lange notes.

Lange says making the EBV's a national, rather than a regional, evaluation system will be the next step. After that, EBV's for sow productivity traits will be explored.

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Contact: Art Lange
427-5319

May 1, 1989
For immediate release

Tree nursery contributes to Arbor Day

This year over 50,000 small plants will be distributed to schools and other non-profit organizations for Arbor Day celebrations and projects by Alberta Agriculture's Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre.

Distributing the seedings is the continuation of a 40-year-old tradition at the Centre, says Brendan Casement, nursery development officer.

"The small plants give children, in the cities and in some rural areas, an appreciation of nature," he says. He adds Alberta's forests will be augmented by almost 30 million seedlings this year.

Arbor Day's roots are in Nebraska where it was first held in 1872. J. Sterling Morton, a farmer there, dreamed of turning the treeless plains into an area that resembled his former home in the wooded eastern United States.

"He loved trees for their own sake, for their beauty and for their part in creating an enjoyable environment," says Casement. Sterling later became a member of the Nebraska Board of Agriculture and eventually the American Secretary of Agriculture. His dream has continued and spread.

In 1884 Alberta celebrated its first Arbor Day. The Council of the Northwest Territories passed an order allowing the Lieutenant Governor to designate one or two days a year as Arbor Day(s).

"Around the turn-of-the-century Arbor Day was a statutory holiday in Edmonton with school children planting seedling trees. The traditional activity has continued in some areas," he says.

Most Arbor Day celebrations and projects in Alberta are scheduled for the first Thursday in May.

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Contact: Brendan Casement
472-6043

May 1, 1989
For immediate release

Computer publications available

Information and advice are the focus of two computer related publications now available from Alberta Agriculture.

The "Agricultural Software Directory 1989" lists almost 600 different agricultural software packages available from over 130 manufacturers in Canada and the United States.

"There's a tremendous array of choices in choosing computer software. The directory has listings for everything from financial record keeping software to educational software related to agriculture," says Beth Lausen of the farm business management branch in Olds.

For a copy of the directory contact the branch by writing Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0 or by calling 556-4240.

The branch has also compiled selected articles from the last eight years of the "Compu-Farm" newsletter. "Compu-Farm Best of Volumes 1-8" contains articles on hardware, software and even a few lessons in programming.

"An interesting part of reading it is seeing how much the computer industry has changed and how much it has really remained the same," says Lausen.

"Compu-Farm Best of Volumes 1-8" is available by contacting the Alberta Agriculture Publications Office, Information Services, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6 and quoting agdex number 818-23.

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Contact: Beth Lausen
556-4240

May 1, 1989
For immediate release

New irrigation specialist in Brooks

Alberta Agriculture's newest irrigation specialist has a solid background in irrigation farming.

Greg Snaith was raised on an irrigation farm about nine miles north of Vauxhall. He also farmed irrigation land in the same area for five years before going on to further his education.

GREG SNAITH

Snaith is a recent graduate of the University of Alberta's agricultural engineering program. He convocates this spring. He also completed his agricultural mechanic certificate at Olds College in 1980.

Alberta Agriculture's irrigation specialists provide design consultation to farmers. "We help irrigation farmers develop a system best suited to their land and the type of crops they plan to grow. We start with soil sampling and work through to the best irrigation delivery system for them," says Snaith.

Alberta Agriculture's Farm Machinery Research Centre in Lethbridge was one of Snaith's summer employers while he attended university. He also worked for Walbern Agri-Systems Ltd., a livestock housing design and manufacturing company in Linden.

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Contact: Greg Snaith
362-1212

May 1, 1989
For immediate release

Agri-News Briefs

LOADING AND TRAILERING HORSES

As horse enthusiasts gear up for another season on the show circuit, they might want to view an Alberta Agriculture video with tips on loading and trailering their horses. Safety,for the horse and handler, is the main focus of this video. Bill Collins, one of Canada's leading trainers, is featured in the 25 minute video. He looks at selecting the appropriate vehicle and trailer, safety features and how to drive so horses will always be good haulers. Training a young horse to load properly and working with the problem horse is also covered by Collins. The video, number 460/20 is available by writing Alberta Agriculture Film Library, Information Services, at 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, T6H 5T6 or by contacting an Alberta Agriculture regional video library.

APRIL WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

Snow surveys conducted by Alberta Environment at the end of March show the mountain snowpack to be close to normal for most areas. Significantly more snow was measured this year, compared to the same time in 1988. Water supply in the major rivers of southern and central Alberta is expected to be slightly below normal, except for the Red Deer and North Saskatchewan River basins which are forecast to produce normal summer runoff volumes. Plains area spring runoff began near the end of March for most of southern Alberta continued to be active through mid-April in southern and central areas. Most of central Alberta is forecast to have below normal runoff, except for the Edson-Whitecourt-Red Deer-Rocky Mountain House area where normal runoff volumes are predicted. A small pocket in that area is expected to produce above normal spring runoff volumes. Normal spring runoff is forecast for the Wabasca and Fort McMurray area, while High Level and Fort Chipewyan areas will have normal to above normal runoff. More information is available from Alberta Environment's River Forecast Centre at 427-6278.

AGRI-NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch Phone: (403) 427-2121

Coming Agricultural Events

1. Do you know of any provincial (Alberta), national or international agricultural meetings, conferences or conventions coming in June, July, August , later in 1989 , or 1990 . Please state the name of the event.

2. What are the dates?

3. Where is the event being held? Include city or town; hotel and convention centre if known.

4. Please give the name, city or town, and phone number of a contact person for each event listed.

5. This form has been completed by (organization/contact/telephone number):

Please return this form by May 26, 1989 to:

Agri-News Editor
Information Services Division
J.G. O'Donoghue Building
7000 - 113 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5T6

(Coming Agricultural Events is published four times a year in Agri-News. The next edition will be printed June 5, 1989.)

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For immediate release

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Alberta
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May 8, 1989
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Good news from canola blackleg tests

None of the over 1300 certified and common canola seed samples checked to date have tested positive for virulent blackleg of canola says Alberta Agriculture's plant pathology supervisor.

"These results from the free testing program offered by Alberta Agriculture are very good news for Alberta farmers, and in particular for canola seed growers," says Ieuan Evans, of the crop protection branch.

Anyone submitting a canola sample for a germination test at a recognized testing facility can receive the blackleg test at no additional charge. Announced in December, 1988, the blackleg seed testing program is part a government response plan to prevent and control the fungus. Alberta Agriculture's crop protection branch has administered the testing program.

Evans credits seed growers for the testing results. "It's a reflection of crop management and quality of the seed offered for sale in this province," he says.

He also had praise for the seed testing laboratories that have participated in the program. Two are in Edmonton, Norwest and United Grain Growers. The second is Newfield Seeds in Saskatchewan. "These labs were given little time to implement procedures to handle the workload, but to date each laboratory is well on line for their projected target analysis," he says.

Province wide awareness about the destructive nature of virulent blackleg of canola should ensure steps are taken to keep non-infested land free of the fungus, he says. "Keeping farms or regions free of this disease is a much easier task than having to control the disease on infested land," he adds.

The fungus was detected in Alberta in 1983. It has been slowly spreading westward from Saskatchewan into east central Alberta over the last few years. The highly infectious disease reduces crop yield.

(Cont'd)

Good news from canola blackleg tests (cont'd)

Farmers were mailed brochures in February about prevention and control and were also given details of the testing program. Fungicide seed treatment, volunteer canola and mustard weed control and appropriate crop rotation are important to both prevention and control. Control measures also include burying the stubble.

More information about the disease is available from Alberta Agriculture district agriculturists.

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Contact: Dr. Ieuan Evans
427-7098

May 8, 1989
For immediate release

Alberta beef promotion in Quebec

Savoring the flavor of 'le boeuf de l'Alberta' was a special attraction in a major hotel chain in Quebec recently.

Despite the fact Quebec is Alberta's largest beef customer, there had never been an Alberta beef promotion in that province until this March says Dave Rous, Alberta Agriculture trade director for eastern and central Canada and the United States. Rous has special responsibility for market development of red meats in North America.

The promotion was a co-operative effort between Alberta Agriculture, the Alberta Cattle Commission, Canada Packers and Quebec division CP hotels, says Rous. The participating hotels were the Queen Elizabeth and Chateau Champlain in Montreal, the Chateau Montebello in Montebello, the Chateau Frontenac in Quebec City and the Chateau Laurier in Ottawa.

From March 2 through 23, diners at the five hotels were greeted with table tents (placards) inviting them to try Alberta beef with a description reading: "Raised on Prairie grain, its flavour is outstanding. A treat to be savored. No matter how you prefer it. The selection is exquisite". Menus featured high quality beef cuts and the promotion was also advertised in newspapers.

Rous says the dual focus on high quality value-added cuts, such as tenderloins and ribs which become filet mignon and prime rib on plates, and the food service industry is critical to market growth. "This promotion represents a long term market development effort. Because of its success there is not only the possibility of repeat business but expanded beef sales.

"Quebec's food service industry already buys a lot of beef, but we still see it as an area with room for expansion. Potential is especially good for selling boxes of the high quality value-added cuts that are certified grade A Alberta beef," he says.

(Cont'd)

Alberta beef promotion in Quebec (cont'd)

Part of the promotion was a beef cutting demonstration and seminar for chefs, food service managers and corporate executives. The seminar outlined the many benefits of Alberta beef including genetic excellence and consistent quality. It was followed by a reception and dinner.

"This promotion was deemed a success by everyone involved, particularly by the hotels, and sales objectives were reached. We're also very pleased with the awareness that was created," says Rous.

He expects expanded and repeat promotions in Quebec as well as similar promotions taking place in Ontario and the Atlantic provinces in the future.

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Contact: Dave Rous
427-4241

May 8, 1989
For immediate release

Westlock 4-H member wins Premier's Award

A 17-year old high school student from Westlock is the 1989 recipient of the Alberta 4-H program's highest honor, the Premier's Award.

Claudelle Seguin was chosen following a weekend of personal development and group interaction in Olds. The annual Provincial 4-H Selections program brought together 138 of Alberta's top 4-H members. They participate in three days of activities designed to improve life and leadership skills.

Seguin was selected from seven finalists known as the Ambassador Group. The Ambassador Group includes Louanna MacLeod, Stavely; Tanya Van Tighem, Carstairs; Janice Copland, Lacombe; Loretta Knowles, Byemoor; Patrick Manderson, Ryley and Wendi Anderson, Beaverlodge.

Seguin says she was excited to be named the recipient of the 26th annual award. "I'm looking forward to the opportunity of representing Alberta 4-H members in the coming year." Among her other responsibilities, she will represent Alberta this summer at the Indiana 4-H Exchange program.

For the last eight years Seguin has been an active member of the Vimy 4-H Beef Club. She has held all the executive positions in the club. She also was a junior staff member at 4-H Club Week and 4-H Conservation Camp in 1988.

She succeeds Lisa Properzi, also of Westlock, who received the honor in 1988. The official award presentation will be made later this summer by the Premier.

Trip awards to 57 delegates were also announced at the awards breakfast. They will represent Alberta at major educational programs and tours throughout Canada and the United States over the next 12 months.

(Cont'd)

Westlock 4-H member wins Premier's Award (cont'd)

Organized by Alberta Agriculture's 4-H branch, Selections is jointly sponsored by Alberta Agriculture, Agriculture Canada, United Grain Growers and the Alberta Wheat Pool.

30

Contact: Marguerite Stark
948-8509

Claudelle Seguin
349-5398

May 8, 1989
For immediate release

Research executive director appointed

Alberta Agriculture's research division now has Dr. Ralph Christian officially at its helm as executive director.

Christian was seconded from his position as director of the animal health division to act as the executive director two years ago.

Deputy minister H. B. (Ben) McEwen announced the permanent appointment. "I am extremely pleased that Dr. Christian will continue to commit his abilities and energy to agriculture and food research. He is well qualified to lead this priority area of Alberta Agriculture and he is well respected, both within the department and in the research community."

DR. RALPH CHRISTIAN

The research division is responsible for co-ordinating the department's agricultural research activities and administering the Farming for the Future program, one of the most successful agricultural research programs in Canada.

His position includes duties as executive director of the Alberta Agricultural Research Institute. The research division is responsible for administration of the provincial crown corporation. Established in July 1987, the Institute is designed to promote improved agricultural research co-ordination and co-operation in Alberta.

Christian represents Alberta Agriculture on numerous boards, committees and provincial and federal councils. He also has regular contact with other Alberta government departments, other provinces, the federal government and private industry.

(Cont'd)

Research division executive director appointed (cont'd)

His career with Alberta Agriculture has spanned more than 21 years. Christian is a graduate of the University of Guelph's veterinary medicine program. He is a qualified specialist in veterinary pathology and a past president of the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association.

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Contact: Dr. Ralph Christian
422-1072

May 8, 1989
For immediate release

Animal health division appointments

Alberta Agriculture's animal health division has an official new look as three acting positions have become permanent following the appointment of Dr. Ralph Christian as executive director of the department's research division.

Harold Hanna, assistant deputy minister, announced the appointments of: Dr. Terry Church, as director of the animal health division; Dr. Ralph Shute, as health management branch head; and, Dr. Raymond Fenton as livestock inspection section head.

Church, a ten year veteran with Alberta Agriculture, replaces Christian as director of the animal health division.

As director, Church is responsible for administration of veterinary diagnostic laboratories and field programs provided by the division.

The labs are located in Airdrie, Edmonton, Fairview and Lethbridge. They assist livestock producers and veterinarians with diagnosing diseases and identifying the cause of losses in their herds and flocks.

DR. TERRY CHURCH

Field programs include province-wide meat inspection, auction market inspection, programs to maintain and improve livestock health and assistance in protecting human health.

Church has a broad range of experience in the field of veterinary medicine as a practicing veterinarian and with an artificial insemination unit. He also has practical farming experience in a hog operation and a feedlot.

(Cont'd)

Before becoming acting director, Church was head of the health management branch. He investigated beef and feedlot cattle diseases and provided extension information.

As health management branch head, Ralph Shute is responsible for field programs and activities to improve livestock health and production in the province.

DR. RALPH SHUTE

Auction market inspection, the swine herd health program, investigation of livestock disease problems, information on livestock diseases, licensing of over-the-counter livestock medicine outlets, administration of the Fur Farms Act and assistance with controlling communicable diseases are some of the activities of the branch.

Born and raised in Edmonton, he obtained his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from the Ontario Veterinary College in 1964. He practised veterinary medicine in Leduc for six years, then attended the Western College of Veterinary Medicine to complete a diploma in diagnostic pathology.

In 1971 Shute returned to Leduc and took over operation of the veterinary hospital there. He joined Alberta Agriculture in 1980 and for seven years headed the livestock inspection section.

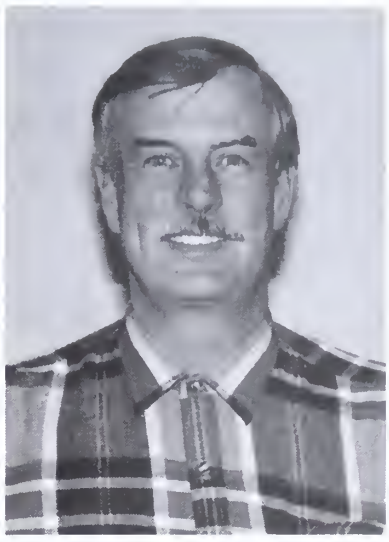
Supervising veterinary inspection at Alberta's livestock markets is one of the major responsibilities Raymond Fenton will have as head of Alberta Agriculture's livestock inspection section.

Controlling the spread of disease in livestock, humane handling of livestock and ensuring livestock market facilities are adequate are his main responsibilities. As well, Fenton will be responsible for control and eradication of contagious foot rot in sheep. Other duties include conducting disease investigations and producer extension courses.

(Cont'd)

Fenton was raised on a Grande Prairie area farm. He graduated from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in 1970 and then spent two years in a veterinary practice in Ontario. He returned to Alberta in 1972 joining a practice in Fort Saskatchewan which he owned from 1974 to 1980.

He conducted a one-year study for Alberta Agriculture into dairy cattle reproductive problems, then joined the department in 1981 as a field veterinarian in Airdrie. His duties included disease investigation and livestock inspection in southern Alberta. He also completed several courses towards a post-graduate diploma in veterinary medicine.



DR. RAYMOND FENTON

Contact: Dr. Terry Church
427-2166

Dr. Ralph Shute
436-9343

Dr. Raymond Fenton
948-8579

AGRI-NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch Phone: (403) 427-2121

May 8, 1989
For immediate release

Organic iodine may prevent foot rot in cattle

Skepticism about the ability of organic iodine to prevent foot rot in cattle may have been put to rest by recent research says an Alberta Agriculture animal nutritionist.

"For many years organic iodine has been thought by some people in the cattle industry to aid in the prevention of foot rot. But, many nutritionists and veterinarians were skeptical of its benefits because the scientific evidence was scant and inconclusive," says Dale Engstrom.

"They were also concerned by signs of iodine toxicity observed in some cattle fed high levels of organic iodine. These observations prompted many nutritionists to recommend against using organic iodine at medicating levels," he says. Federal government regulations do permit salt and mineral products for cattle to contain organic iodine.

Engstrom says results from three experiments in Missouri indicate that organic iodine may be a useful aid in the prevention of foot rot. In the first study, organic iodine reduced the level of experimentally induced foot rot from 53 per cent in the control group of non-medicated cattle to 10 per cent in three medicated groups. "Of major interest was the observation that 12.5 mg of iodine per head per day was as effective as 200 mg per head per day," says Engstrom.

A second study confirmed these findings. A third study, by the same researchers, showed the prevalence of naturally occurring foot rot was reduced from 21 per cent in a non-medicated group to eight per cent in groups medicated with organic iodine. The severity of tissue damage caused by the disease was also reduced in the medicated cattle.

Engstrom says producers who have a high incidence of foot rot can do two things to combat their problem. His first recommendation is to clean up pastures.

(Cont'd)

Organic iodine may prevent foot rot in cattle (cont'd)

"Minimizing cuts and bruises on the feet is a first step towards solving a foot rot problem. The bacteria that cause foot rot are present in soil most places where cattle walk. A cut or bruise to the soft part of the foot allows the bacteria to enter. Junk lying around old building sites, and anything else that causes foot damage in a pasture, should be cleaned up or removed," he says.

Producers can use a good trace mineralized salt including organic iodine on a free-choice pasture. "The level of organic iodine in the trace mineral salt mix should not exceed 800 mg/kg. This is less than one third of what government regulations currently allow in medicated salts. If the salt chosen contains more than the recommended level of organic iodine, it should be diluted with a non-medicated salt of similar composition," Engstrom says.

If cattle show signs of iodine toxicity, the salt mix should be diluted with additional non-medicated trace mineralized salt or be removed. Symptoms include elevated temperatures, coughing, and runny noses or eyes. Often young calves allowed to consume the salt mix will be the first to show signs of iodine toxicity.

"Despite good management, some cattle in the herd might still be affected by foot rot. They should be treated immediately with an appropriate antibiotic. Your veterinarian should be contacted for specific advice and appropriate treatment methods," says Engstrom.

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Contact: Dale Engstrom
436-9150

May 8, 1989
For immediate release

Bankers go to production school

A hog barn tour is the first thing on the agenda of an agricultural production course for bankers at Olds College this month.

"The course's orientation is so the banker can answer, 'Should I lend money for this farm project?' Being able to answer that question requires a good understanding of agriculture, and that starts behind the farm gate with the actual working of the farm," says Garth Nickorick, an Alberta Agriculture farm management economist.

Usually about 75 people from banks throughout the province take part in the refresher course says Nickorick, of the farm business management branch in Olds. Alberta Agriculture co-sponsors the week long course with Olds College and various lending institutions. The course starts on May 28 and runs through June 2.

Farm tours are just one part of course activity. Course participants are provided with an "Agricultural Lenders Manual." The 600 plus page binder covers all aspects of agricultural production in the province. He says the manual is also available to interested people not taking the course for nominal charge.

For registration information, or to obtain a copy of the "Agricultural Lender Manual", contact Cindy Turner, Olds College Extension Office, at 556-8339.

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Contact: Garth Nickorick
556-4247

Cindy Turner
556-8339

May 8, 1989
For immediate release

Conservation specialist appointed

A former Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist has been appointed a conservation specialist with the conservation and development branch.

Following a four and half year stint as Drumheller DA, Tom Goddard went back to university in 1984. He completed his MSc in soil science at the University of Alberta in 1988. His area of research was erosion and erodibility of agricultural soils.

TOM GODDARD

Since 1987 Goddard has worked as a consultant on soil conservation projects for government, university and industry clients.

His first project as conservation specialist is developing a program for farmers to help them put together their own farm conservation plans. "The program's goal is to ensure economic long term conservation of soil and water resources. The process will start with the farmer making a detailed account of land and water resources and available equipment. The final product is a document outlining all resources available to the farmer and the best management practices to ensure soil conservation," he says.

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Contact: Tom Goddard
422-4385

May 8, 1989
For immediate release

Supervisor of feeder associations announced

The Alberta feeder association program has a new supervisor who recently began his new duties.

Rick Frederickson comes to the feeder association program from the Alberta Agriculture Development Corporation. He was a loans officer in Wetaskiwin for seven years.

RICK FREDERICKSON

As supervisor, he is responsible for monitoring the lending activities of the province's 56 feeder associations. Each association is a co-operative and borrows money from banks through loan guarantees established by the Feeder Associations Act.

The Feeder Association program, administered through Alberta Agriculture's animal industry division, helps about 5,000 farmers finance over $160 million in feeder cattle annually.

"The program is very low cost for government because the individual associations administer their own affairs and the bank loan rates aren't subsidized," he says.

Frederickson is a University of Saskatchewan graduate. He received his BSc in Agriculture in 1979. He also has considerable experience in the beef cattle industry.

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Contact: Rick Frederickson
427-5096

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For immediate release

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AGRICULTURE
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Room to grow in oat industry

An oats industry report commissioned by Alberta Agriculture has identified several "critical success factors" in developing the potential of oats.

These factors, from more research to attracting a major processor, require action and attention if the oat industry is to grow, diverse and prosper in the future. The report was prepared by the Peat Marwick Consulting Group. The report's recommendations covered three major areas: research, market development and processing.

"There's a lot of excitement about the potential of oats and this report gives guidelines to government, producers and industry to make the most of the opportunities that exist," says Stan Schellenberger, chairman of Alberta Agriculture's planning secretariat and a departmental steering committee on oats.

Alberta is one of the premiere oat growing regions of the world and can capitalize on this natural advantage a group of grain industry representatives, oats producers, processors and government representatives were told when the study was officially released.

Oats, once a sleepy little commodity without glamour, has become a more attractive crop for Alberta farmers in the last three years. A health conscious public has become interested in oat products from cereal to oat bran. Market interest in pony oats followed two Kentucky Derby winners fuelled by Alberta oats.

To meet the challenges of the marketplace the study says oats need a higher research priority with more intensive research and breeding programs. The study also recommends improved agronomic practices. Oats, to some extent, have been a neglected crop with farmers giving more energy, fertilizer and spray to other crops. Extension activities to help farmers produce better oats and to adjust to the new open market system were also recommended.

(Cont'd)

Room to grow in oats industry (cont'd)

Market development should focus on Alberta as a high quality reliable oats supplier. The study notes there is already a "brand" recognition of Alberta oats as high quality. Marketing approaches by industry and government have to spread that awareness.

Only five per cent of exported Canadian oats have been processed. The study recommends attracting a major processor and says there are at least 10 good reasons to consider an Alberta investment in milling. These advantages include locating processing close to production, shorter hauling distances to west coast American markets and the high quality of Alberta oats.

Schellenberger says the report was commissioned to examine the opportunities for oats on the Prairies and particularly in Alberta. He says the study had to change direction shortly after it got off the ground when oats was removed from Canadian Wheat Board jurisdiction on January 19, 1989.

Specifically the study's objectives were to describe the oat market, particularly in the United States, the largest world oat importer and processing opportunities in the province. The 56-page study overviews oat production, research, marketing and export performance. It also provides an outlook for export and processing opportunities.

Alberta Agriculture organizers were pleased with the full house attendance at the study release and panel discussions of various aspects of the industry following the presentation of the study's highlights.

"We wouldn't have gotten a room full of people interested in oats out to a meeting a few years ago. The attendance by industry, the grain companies, processors and producers is a very positive signal," says Ken Beswick, chairman of the Alberta Grain Commission.

(Cont'd)

Room to grow in oats industry (cont'd)

Leading off the panel discussions were three grain company representatives who described their producer marketing options and their new marketing approaches. Bob Nelson, head of the crop production section of Alberta Agriculture's field crops branch in Lacombe, outlined current research work on the Prairies. Alberta Agriculture trade directors Doug Bienert and Dianne Hayward discussed the marketing potential of pony and processed oats. There was also a brief presentation on forming an oat growers association.

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Contact: Stan Schellenberger
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May 15, 1989
For immediate release

Interest in commodity group for oats

The assorted group of commodity organizations that represent the interests of everything from beef and wheat to goats and pulse crops could soon have an oats group added to the list.

Ken Motiuk, a Mundare area oat grower, is a member of an ad hoc committee working to establish an oat growers' association. A organizational meeting is planned for late June in Edmonton.

Motiuk says now is the time to "run with the ball". Oats have been thrust in the spotlight in the last three years. A health conscious public began wanting oat products creating a demand for quality oats and bringing premium prices to producers. The oat market was already changing when the Canadian Wheat Board announced in late January oats would be removed from its jurisdiction and become an open market commodity.

Motiuk says an organization is needed to speak for oat growers. Not only would the group deal with grower concerns, but look at the best way to cash in on the demand for oats and how to build the industry.

Alberta Agriculture's marketing services has been helping the interested producers with their organization efforts, says Emile deMilliano, of the commodity development section.

Motiuk's group is not the only one that sees a need for an organization to promote for the oat industry. An Alberta consulting company is nurturing the idea of a national oats council. Agri-Trends Research of Calgary has made a proposal to Charlie Mayer, the minister responsible for grains and oilseeds. The company has offered to serve as a secretariat to oversee development of an oat council.

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Ken Motiuk
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May 15, 1989
For immediate release

Buffalo Lake Moraine project first step in continental waterfowl plan

Ducks and farmers have an uneasy relationship on the Canadian Prairies. It is both a prime agricultural area and one of the most important waterfowl breeding areas in North America.

Agriculture's necessity speaks for itself, we don't eat without it. As well as being a sign of a healthy environment, waterfowl provides tourism dollars and other economic returns in many communities.

Since the mid-1970s, duck populations have declined with the loss of habitat across North America. Farmers have used marginal land in an effort to get better returns. Dry years have dried up wetlands. Both have made predation easier. The competition for space, plus the damage ducks do by plundering swaths in the fall as they fly south, hasn't made for peaceful co-existence.

Governments and conservationists on both sides of the border are hoping to change that into a more harmonious relationship of mutual benefit. Three years ago, in 1986, the Canadian and American governments signed a North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) to protect wetland areas and increase waterfowl numbers. Their concern isn't a new one, 73 years ago they signed a Convention for the Protection of Migratory Birds.

Despite more intensive farming of potholes and pastures and dried up sloughs, the Canadian Prairies still have the most available habitat areas to protect. In Western Canada, the NAWMP is being implemented through the Canadian Prairie Habitat Joint Venture. It has targeted 3.6 million acres with $1 billion in funding over 15 years.

The kick-start project in Alberta is in the Buffalo Lake Moraine. The project area covers 528 square miles of the moraine surrounding the central Alberta lake. It is one of the highest priority waterfowl habitat areas in the province, says project co-ordinator Brett Calverley of Ducks Unlimited. Other project partners are Alberta Agriculture, Alberta Fish and Wildlife, Wildlife Habitat Canada and the Canadian Wildlife Service.

(Cont'd)

Buffalo Lake Moraine project first step in continental waterfowl plan (cont'd)

Calverley also says the moraine was chosen because it complements existing projects in the area. Buffalo Lake itself is a Wetlands for Tomorrow site, a major waterfowl staging, moulting and production area.

Increasing the mallard duck population is a particular goal of the Buffalo Lake project. About 18 duck species plus Canada geese nest in the area. But, improving the waterfowl population is only one part of the project's mandate. As the tractor and duck on the project logo show, the objective is integration that satisfies the needs of both waterfowl and agriculture.

The principle to achieve that objective is simple. "Small changes in land use practices to demonstrate agriculture and wildlife production are compatible pursuits," explains Calverley.

The project represents a new approach, says Calverley. "For 50 years Ducks Unlimited has focused on wetlands, but studies have shown nesting success is still a major problem. Waterfowl habitat is wetlands plus the uplands; they go hand-in-hand. Improving duck populations isn't one or the other, there has to be both."

Providing appropriate nesting areas by encouraging farmers to convert planned summerfallow into residual spring nesting cover and by buying parcels of marginal crop land, are the major elements of the plan. Project staff members Mark MacNaughton and Jerry Brunen are currently knocking on doors in the area and talking to land owners about getting involved.

Agricultural components of the plan not only benefit ducks, but are good soil and water conservation practices, says Alberta Agriculture's Len Fullen. Fullen, of the resource planning branch, says it is hoped the chem fallow and legume plowdown options will demonstrate cost effective alternatives to summerfallow.

Chem fallow uses herbicides to reduce tillage by killing weeds without removing stubble, a protective soil cover. Legumes work as a green manure. They biologically fix nitrogen as they grow and then are plowed down into the soil. Farmers in the program would receive either clover seed or a subsidy for half their chemical.

(Cont'd)

Buffalo Lake Moraine project first step in continental waterfowl plan (cont'd)

"These options not only provide some nesting cover for birds, but also prevent wind and water erosion. Legume plowdown adds soil organic matter and nitrogen. Chem fallow conserves soil moisture," says Fullen.

Farmers can get involved in the program by signing up for one or both of the options for up to three years of the next six. "They don't have to be consecutive years. All we ask is that the farmer give the options an honest try," says Fullen. About 2,000 acres have been targeted each year for the agricultural components of the plan.

About 2,000 acres of marginal land will be purchased by the end of this year, says Calverley. Three counties--Camrose, Stettler and Lacombe--and their planning commissions have co-operated by giving permission for the land subdivisions. The parcels, ranging in size from 40 acres to a quarter-section, will be converted to dense nesting cover complete with predator proof fencing.

"Complexes of small wetlands and their surrounding uplands are targeted in the project because they are so important," says Calverley. He particularly points out the role of temporary spring wetlands such as sheet water and potholes. "They provide critical nutrition for both breeding females and young birds," he says.

The project also deals with a constant complaint of farmers, crop damage from migrating birds during harvest. To alleviate this problem, a feeding station was constructed last winter. Calverley says it will be operational this fall along with two others already in the area.

Eventually the project will also include small nesting islands in areas where intensive farming have limited waterfowl production.

About $2 million has been committed to the project over three years. The affect the total project has had on waterfowl production and population objectives will be studied once the project is underway.

Benefits of the project aren't limited to ducks and farmers. Wildlife in the area, especially upland game birds and land nesting song birds, will also enjoy better habitat.

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Contact: Len Fullen
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Brett Calverley
489-2002

May 15, 1989
For immediate release

Wheat prices continue to reflect tight supply

World wheat prices continue to reflect the extremely tight supply of wheat says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"We're coming to the end of crop year with this very tight supply. Prices are substantially higher than they were a year ago. Price direction in the next crop year, both internationally and domestically, is dependent on 1989 world wheat production," says Charlie Pearson.

"If there are signs of another crop production disaster in one of the major producing areas, there would be a further tightening of world wheat stocks and an increase in international wheat prices," he says.

Another critical factor in the tight supply situation is continued growth in world wheat consumption. It has been outpacing increases in production. "Even if the 1989 crop is good, the carryover's not likely to increase substantially. That's the basis for optimism in continued good prices," he says. A world wheat disappearance of 536 million tonnes, would leave the world wheat carryover at the end of 1989-90 virtually unchanged from the 110 million tonnes forecast for the current crop year.

This level of carryover is close to the level's of the early 1970's, the time of the "Great Grain Robbery", says Pearson.

The 22.9 million tonnes of total 1988-89 estimated Canadian wheat supply is down 41 per cent from the previous crop year.

International wheat prices in 1989-90 are expected to remain the same as those for the current crop year, he says. His forecast is based on a supply demand situation similar to the present trend. The Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) set its initial payment for 1989-90 1 CW red spring at $155 per tonne. That's down from $170 for the current crop year.

"Forecasts of high international prices mean producers can expect a $20 per tonne adjustment payment and a January 1991 final payment of a further $20 per tonne," he says.

(Cont'd)

Wheat prices continue to reflect tight supply (cont'd)

The CWB initial payment for 1 CW amber durum was reduced to $150 per tonne from $190 per tonne. Pearson says increased North American durum wheat acreage accounts for the drop and total payments for this class of wheat won't carry the premiums of recent years to hard red spring wheat. He adds a crop failure in a major durum wheat producing region would push prices higher.

He says feed wheat prices will be highly dependent on both the impact of international feedgrain prices and the quality of the 1989 Canadian wheat crop.

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Contact: Charlie Pearson
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May 15, 1989
For immediate release

Oilseed prices weather sensitive

Oilseed prices will be sensitive to weather in the United States says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"Both soybean and canola prices will react quickly to concerns about the weather's impact on crop production in the American midwest," says Charlie Pearson.

"On the other hand, Canadian farmers still have a lot of last year's record crop in their bins. Prices will be affected by the expected large Canadian canola carryover," says Pearson. Another negative factor on prices for Canadian producers comes this month as South American production enters the market.

Alberta elevators/crusher bids for canola have ranged from $275 to $300 per tonne during February and March, he says. If midwest weather is favorable, those bids are expected to remain in the $280 to $310 per tonne range this fall, he says. He adds, "Producers should begin pre-pricing a portion of their 1989 crop at prices above this level on weather rallies".

Canadian production is expected to decrease 10 per cent in 1989 compared to 1988 and exports are forecast to increase in 1989-90. The prime reason for increased exports to U.S. crushing plants is that they are converting to handle canola. "Canola oil has been praised and recognized by American health organizations for its health value as low in saturated fats and high in unsaturated fats," he says.

Domestic crushers are expected to return to full operation in 1989-90. This should decrease the July 1990 carryover, says Pearson.

Canadian, American and Argentinian flax production will likely return to more normal levels this year after last year's drought reduced crops says Pearson.

(Cont'd)

Oilseed outlook mixed bag (cont'd)

Canadian seeding intentions are up 21 per cent to 1.6 million acres. An average yield would double 1988 production.

October futures contracts traded in the range of $357 to $380 per tonne during April. "Assuming a $60 per tonne basis, this would allow a producer to lock in about $310 per tonne. If weather for prairie and upper U.S. midwest flaxseed production is favorable, fall prices are expected to be lower," he says.

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Contact: Charlie Pearson
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May 15, 1989
For immediate release

Feedgrain prices dependent on American corn crop

American corn production in 1989 will play a large part in world feedgrain prices says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"Weather and its implications for world coarse grain and domestic feed grain will be the major impact factor on Alberta barley prices," says Charlie Pearson. "The dominance of U.S. corn in world coarse grain production and weather across the midwest will continue to dominate international price movements."

March 1 seeding intentions from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) estimate corn acreage will be up eight per cent from 1988. "Average U.S. corn yields of close to record 120 bu/ac yields would result in a slight rebuilding of ending stocks and put downward pressure on international feed grain prices.

"If the average corn yield is below 100 bu/ac then the world coarse grain carryovers would be reduced even further from current tight levels, and push up prices. A 110 bu/ac U.S. corn yield would leave U.S. corn carryovers unchanged from the current crop year forecast," he says.

Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) initial barley payments have been reduced $35 to $85 per tonne (in store Pacific coast/Vancouver) or an Alberta based payment of about $65 per tonne. Pearson predicts an adjustment of $15 to $20 per tonne "will likely be warranted during the summer". Designated barley was set at $115 per tonne by the CWB.

Domestic barley prices will be lower in the fall, he says. "Northern Alberta prices will probably be similar to the CWB initial payment with southern Alberta barley at a premium based on the cost of moving barley into this region."

Prairie barley supplies should be adequate to the end of the crop year despite the past year's smaller barley crop, he says. Total 1988-89 Canadian barley supplies are 13.8 million tonnes, 3.4 million tonnes less than the previous crop year.

(Cont'd)

Feedgrain prices dependent on American corn crop (cont'd)

Canadian farmers delivered 2.9 million tonnes of barley during the first eight months of this crop year. That's down 400,000 tonnes from the previous crop year. Canadian barley and barley product exports are forecast to be 2.7 million tonnes, a 41 per cent decline from 1987-88. Barley exports to April 2 were 1.5 million tonnes, half the level of the same period in 1987-88.

On the oat front, Pearson says a return to more normal weather means North American oats are expected to lose much of the price premium paid this past year over other feedgrains. The U.S. is a dominant world oat importer. A forecast larger U.S. oat crop--it could be double the 1988 crop size--would reduce its import needs for feed quality oats. However, demand for pony and milling quality oats is expected to remain high.

"Canada should be able to maintain a large portion of the U.S. market. Indications are that between 150,000 and 250,000 tonnes of Canadian oats have already been contracted into the U.S. market for the coming crop year," he says.

Increased availability of oats in the coming year will put pressure on current price levels. Pearson's forecast is for feed oats prices (3 CW) to decline to $100 from $115 per tonne by the fall. "Grain companies are currently offering contracts at substantially higher prices than this forecast. Oat producers are encouraged to pre-price a portion of their expected 1989 production," he says.

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Contact: Charlie Pearson
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May 15, 1989
For immediate release

Speaker from Veteran wins provincial 4-H speak-off

Alberta's 4-H speak-off was held at Edmonton Northlands recently. In the front row are Angela Bishell (right) who won the competition with Danielle Stewart (left) who was third. Back row (left to right) are: Don Sprague, president of Edmonton Northlands; Jim Schneider, second place winner; and, Ted Youck, head of the 4-H branch.

Alberta's new 4-H public speaking champion was crowned at the provincial finals at Edmonton Northlands.

Angela Bishell, of Veteran and the Consort Multi Club, earned first place honours with her researched speech, "Bow and Arrow", and impromptu speech, "We're Always Communicating Something".

Fourteen finalists from Alberta 4-H clubs participated in the speak-off. Each contestant researched the topic of "today's family" during the week prior to the speaking competition. They prepared a four to six minute speech on a specific aspect of the topic. Shorter impromptu speeches rounded out the competition activities.

(Cont'd)

Speaker from Veteran wins provincial 4-H speak-off

Jim Schneider, of Bow Island and the Bar-Vee Multi Club, placed second. Hesketh-Orkney Beef Club member, Danielle Stewart, of Carbon was third.

"Communication training is an area of special emphasis in the 4-H program. Competitive public speaking is one way to develop communication skills," says Anita Styba, of Alberta Agriculture's 4-H branch.

This year's provincial event was sponsored by Edmonton Northlands and Alberta Agriculture.

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May 15, 1989
For immediate release

Precipitation below normal in April

While April precipitation was below normal across most of the province, winter snowfall, spring snowmelt and runoff have recharged surface soil moisture.

"There's enough surface soil moisture for germination," says Peter Dzikowski, Alberta Agriculture weather resource specialist. "Although winter precipitation was below normal, it wasn't that far below normal and certainly was much more than in the previous winter."

Subsoil moisture, however, is still low in many areas of the province. "Areas that were in trouble last year with low subsoil moisture, particularly in the south and east, have seen some marginal improvement," he says.

This year's farm water supply is much more positive than a year ago. "There has been some runoff that's put water in dugouts without pumping. Many people had to use the Water Supplies Assistance program to pump water into their dugouts in 1988," he says.

April precipitation was below normal in the province says Dzikowski. From Lac La Biche south in the eastern region and in the Lethbridge region, precipitation was less than half of normal. Most other areas of the province ranged between 60 and 90 per cent of normal.

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May 15, 1989
For immediate release

Land rental rates holding steady

Initial results of a land leasing survey for 1989 show cash rents have held steady or increased slightly this year says an Alberta Agriculture farm management economist.

"The range we've seen is from no increase to $10 per acre. This has depended on what local conditions have been like," says Garth Nickorick, of the farm business management branch in Olds.

Nickorick says there is an even split between cash rent and crop share arrangements. He adds 57 per cent of these leasing contracts are written while 43 per cent are verbal.

One of the new features of leasing agreements is how government support program payments are split between the landholder and the renter. "The usual pattern of handling of government payments in a cash rental situation was that the tenant kept all the crop insurance, Western Grain Stabilization payments and all other government payments. The survey found while a large majority of tenants, 88 per cent, kept all government payments, 12 per cent split those payments with their landlords.

"In a crop share arrangement, usually the tenant kept all Western Grain Stabilization payments and crop insurance but split other government payments like drought assistance or the Special Grains program. This year's survey found 45 per cent of crop sharing tenants kept all the government payments, while 55 per cent split the payments with the landlord," says Nickorick.

Final results of the survey should be available later in the month.

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Editor's Note

In 1987 Alberta Agriculture filmed "Water, water". The film, also available as a video, stresses the importance of water management in agriculture in this province. Four farmers were interviewed about projects they use or were developing to make better use of their farm's water resources. The following article looks at how their systems have worked in the last two years.

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May 15, 1989
For immediate release

Water, water

No matter the type of production, agriculture's success equation always requires water. Livestock producers need it for their herds, flocks, pastures and crops. Cereal crops require about four inches of moisture in order to produce a crop. Every inch more than that improves yield by about four bushels an acre.

For farmers on Canada's Prairies making the most of the precipitation they receive is a big challenge. It isn't just the difficulty of occasional drought but managing the snow, runoff and rain that comes their way.

"Most farmers receive about one-third of the year's moisture in spring runoff. They might need moisture most during the summer growing period. Because the time moisture is needed doesn't equal availability, farmers have always had to find ways to manage their particular water resources. Recent droughts have only pointed out the real necessity of water management all the time," says Neil MacAlpine, an Alberta Agriculture farm water management engineer.

"Water management requires understanding, planning, development and then careful use," he says. "Retaining spring snowmelt, and even summer rain runoff, can be done. It's not only critical for withstanding or resisting drought but to produce better crops, water livestock and even meet domestic needs."

Water management can be approached in many ways from small changes in farming practices to major projects. Fundamental to the plan is remembering that soil can be a reservoir to hold and conserve moisture says MacAlpine.

"That means activities like leaving stubble at alternate heights to trap more snow and using minimum tillage to conserve moisture. They are good soil conservation practices, and also good water management," he says.

(Cont'd)

Water, water (cont'd)

Water management can also involve major projects that allow farmers to have better control of the moisture they receive. Some of the typical water management projects used in the province were the focus of an Alberta Agriculture video. Filmed in 1987 "Water, Water" looks at soil moisture conservation, backflood irrigation, dugouts, spot leveling and slough consolidation.

The farmers featured in the video have had tests of their systems in the intervening springs. Last year runoff was scarce, this year runoff has been closer to normal.

Blackflood irrigation can be traced to the early settlers in south eastern Alberta. Leigh Morrison, irrigation specialist in Medicine Hat, says some dikes used for this operation were built in the late 1800's with three generations or more making use of the systems.

Dikes hold back runoff usually diverted from a shallow watercourse. Farmers open the control valve to their field and flood it for anywhere from a few days to two weeks. With a system of dikes and control culverts the water can be moved from field to field.

Bob Weeks, an Orion area farmer, says he has continued the backflooding tradition that started on his land in 1914. Between the land he owns and rents, he can backflood up to 1200 acres on pasture and crop land.

In his almost 30 years of farming he says 1988 was the worst year he'd seen for lack of spring runoff. There wasn't enough water available to do backflooding. This spring hasn't been much better, but he used what little runoff there was to backflood.

When there is a lot runoff like there was in 1986, the system works well, Weeks says. It's inexpensive and his land has the right characteristics to make backflooding work--its level and has a runoff watershed that can be diked.

A fairly common approach to water management is building a dugout to store water. Eugene and Diane Mryglod of Calmar were faced with the problem of needing water. They began to have serious water problem in 1983 as they expanded their farming operation. They drilled three dry holes. A 425 foot deep fourth well produced little more than a trickle.

(Cont'd)

Water, water (cont'd)

They solved their problem by building a dugout. "It was the only logical route, and we wished we'd thought of it a lot earlier," says Diane Mryglod.

In 1987 they built a 1.5 million gallon capacity dugout approved as required by the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA). It was ready for the runoff in 1988, but there wasn't much.

The Mryglods took advantage of one of the programs in the Water Supplies Assistance program announced by the Premier last May. They pumped water from a creek a mile and half away.

"We pumped for 33 straight hours until the dugout was about one foot from being full. It was so dry that it soaked down about six or eight inches after that," she says. But the dugout helped see them through the year. They used it all winter for their 100 cattle and 120 sow farrow to finish pig barn.

This spring the dugout filled on its own by April 2, and it only took a few hours to fill, she says. Excess water goes into a nearby creek.

Viking area farmer Richard Nordstrom used spot leveling as part of his farm water management plan. High and low spots of a field were leveled and a grade made for a water catchment area. His system moves water about a half mile.

He says it will take time to pay for the cost of building the system, but it will beneficial in the long run in many respects. He gained ten acres of crop land in the project and hopes to have eliminated some alkaline build up.

"There are so many hidden costs in going around sloughs. Those savings aren't as visible as returns from farming a few more acres," he says. He adds the project has also given him peace of mind.

While there hasn't been much spring runoff to test his drainage system, a late summer rain did. On August 20, 1988 there was a four and half inch rain. It temporarily flood the retention area for a day and a half and then was released at a controlled rate to his outlet slough.

(Cont'd)

Water, water (cont'd)

Slough consolidation is another option. Derwin Massey farms near Donalda in central Alberta. His slough consolidation project is an example of an integrated water management plan that take into consideration both agricultural and waterfowl concerns. Water levels and waterfowl populations are being monitored for three years.

Massey says he is pleased with the results so far. He says slough consolidation has a lot of merit in areas where there are a lot of potholes. He was farming around 16 sloughs, and gained about 27 acres on the quarter section. In time, and with more normal snowfalls, he hopes to use the collected runoff for irrigation.

While the last two years haven't brought big runoffs, a late March, 1988 snowstorm of 44 cm (17 inches) did test the system of drains and automatic electric pump station. The system emptied the field's depressions and potholes over five days into the consolidation pond.

From the design perspective there haven't been any problems with the consolidation, says Blair Wright of Jensen Engineering in Olds. "The consolidation pond did have water in it when a lot of sloughs around didn't in 1988. It's much the same situation this year," he says.

He adds that with last year's drought, ducks and geese made good use of the permanent water supplied by the slough consolidation.

"Water, Water" is available as 16mm film or as a video through Alberta Agriculture's Film Library, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, T6H 5T6 or through regional video libraries.

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Contact: Neil MacAlpine
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May 15, 1989
For immediate release

Agri-News Briefs

HOME ECONOMISTS FIRST PROFESSION REGISTERED

The distinction of being the first organization registered under the new Professional and Occupational Association Registration Act went to the Alberta Home Economic Association. Administered by Alberta Consumer and Corporate Affairs, the act helps to ensure that a registered organization sets and meets clear standards in the services its members provide to the public. The act is umbrella legislation covering a number of different professions and occupations. The Alberta Home Economics Association has over 600 members. Almost all of Alberta Agriculture's 80 home economist are members of the association. Members are now entitled to use the designation of profession home economist, PHEc.

CO-ORDINATED APPROACH TO NUTRITION IN NORTH EAST

Alberta Agriculture district home economists in the north east region joined with dieticians, nutritionists, home economists and home economics teachers in a nutrition month campaign. A Nutrition Day was designated and many special events were held. Some 79,000 "Health Eating Is..." placements were sold to restaurants, hospitals and schools boards in the region. A 'vegetable troupe' of human sized vegetables delivered nutritious snacks to schools, senior citizens centres and on the main streets of St. Paul, Elk Point, Bonnyville and Grand Centre. At a 'nutrition extravaganza' at Andrew School, area school children and their families learned more about Canada's Food Guide, snacking, fat, sugar, salt and fibre in a carnival atmosphere. Mayors and reeves across the region proclaimed March 3 as Nutrition Day and March as Nutrition Month.

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AGRI-NEWS

JUN - 5

May 22, 1989

For immediate release

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Information Services Division

May 22, 1989
For immediate release

Lamb prices increase during first quarter

Alberta lamb prices decreased during the last three quarters of 1988, but rose in the first quarter of this year says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"Alberta slaughter lamb prices will likely peak in the $80/cwt. range sometime in the second quarter, either this month or in early June. This is the normal seasonal pattern and is supported this year by reduced slaughter volumes and reasonably good retail interest," says Ron Gietz.

In his quarterly livestock situation and outlook, Gietz also says prices will drop with pressure from increased slaughter volumes between July and September. "Those price drops won't be nearly as severe as the ones during the summer of 1988. Alberta lamb prices during the second half of 1989 should be consistently higher than 1988 prices," he says.

Gietz's outlook for feeder lambs is also positive. He expects steady to slightly higher prices through the remainder of the year. He adds barley prices will affect expected returns to producers feeding lambs and the trends in the fall feeder market.

Alberta federally and provincially inspected sheep and lamb slaughter was up six per cent compared to the first quarter of 1988. The slaughter total was 19,688 head.

"Although a large proportion of the first quarter slaughter was imported lambs, recent increases in Alberta slaughter volumes also correspond to increases in the provincial sheep flock over the past three years," he says.

An Alberta Agriculture sheep survey found the average flock size has increased 15 per cent from 110 head per farm in 1988 to 127 head in 1989.

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Contact: Ron Gietz
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May 22, 1989
For immediate release

Decreased beef production expected

Sharp reductions of fed cattle put on the market increased prices in all North American cattle markets in the first quarter of 1989 says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"For several weeks early this year Canadian output was running four to six per cent below last year's volumes. Cold weather hindered the performance of cattle being fed over the winter," says Ron Gietz in his quarterly livestock situation and outlook report.

Alberta slaughter cattle followed the same general trend. Steer slaughter was four per cent less than last year and heifer slaughter dropped two per cent. Average carcass weights for fed cattle were about three per cent lower than in the first quarter of 1988.

"Prices for fed steers increased almost steadily from January through March reaching a top range of $86.50 to $90.50/cwt. during the week ending March 17. This likely will be the price peak in 1989," he says.

Gietz says it's expected that beef output will decrease in both Canada and the U.S. and result in higher annual average fed cattle prices this year compared to 1988.

In the short term, two factors will also contribute to better prices. Retail demand for beef is expected to start a seasonal improvement in May. Hog prices are expected to improve in the second quarter, and a more typical price spread between the two commodities is favorable for the cattle outlook, he says.

As in 1988, July through September is expected to be the worst quarter for fed cattle prices. However, Gietz says slaughter steer prices as low as last year's $74/cwt. aren't likely.

"How low prices drop and how soon they begin to recover will be dictated largely by developments in the U.S. market. If U.S. feedlots postpone marketings and lose currentness, low prices could carry on well into August," he says.

(Cont'd)

Decreased beef production expected (cont'd)

Gietz says developments this summer in the feedgrain market will be the single most important factor in replacement cattle prices. "Constant or slightly lower barley prices through the summer would keep steady buyer interest in feeder cattle. This translates into heavy feeder steer prices remaining in the $85 to $90/cwt. range and 500 to 600 lb. steers trading lower than last year in the $100 to $105/cwt. range. Substantially higher or lower barley prices would translate into feeder cattle prices respectively lower or higher," he says.

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Contact: Ron Gietz
427-5376

May 22, 1989
For immediate release

High output kept hog prices down

While hog prices were low in the first three months of 1989 there are indications that prices will rally says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"In Alberta, producers faced the lowest first quarter market prices since 1974, not accounting for inflation. The average producer payment price for the first quarter of 1989 was $1.12/kg ($50.65/cwt.)," says Ron Gietz in his quarterly livestock situation and outlook.

A gradual price improvement began in April, he adds. "A typical seasonal tightening of slaughter hog supplies across North America will result in a continued upward price trend during the remainder of the second quarter and prices should remain at higher levels through most of July through September," he says.

Gietz predicts producer payment prices in a range between $56 and $61/cwt. for the second quarter and $60 to $65/cwt. through the third quarter. He adds movements outside the average ranges are likely and a price rally as high as $70/cwt. may come in June.

Low prices are the result from still high hog inventories. Gietz says although the Canadian swine herd is currently in a contraction phase, recent cutback decisions haven't affected hog output yet. Alberta does lead all provinces in hog inventory declines compared to 1988 levels.

"On April 1, total pig numbers were down 10 per cent, breeding stock inventories were down nine per cent and April-June farrowing intentions also decreased by nine per cent. These inventory adjustments reflect the particularly large declines in market hog prices experienced over the past year in the province," he says.

American swine herd adjustments to the drop in hog production profitability has been slower than Canadian adjustments.

(Cont'd)

High output kept hog prices down (cont'd)

Canadian pork export volumes are likely to be affected by the U.S. Commerce Department initial ruling in early May that Canadian pork exports are subsidized. A counterveiling duty of 7.7 cents per kilogram on exports of fresh, chilled and frozen Canadian pork became effective May 8. The additional counterveils came after a U.S. National Pork Producers Council petition.

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Contact: Ron Gietz
427-5376

May 22, 1989
For immediate release

Early caterpillar control important

It's become another sign of spring. As leaves begin to appear on trees, forest tent caterpillars begin munching their way through the new leaves.

Stopping the caterpillars early, when they've just hatched, is the easiest way to deal with the insect says Pam North, information officer for the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre in Edmonton.

"When they are small there are more alternatives for getting rid of the caterpillars. Be aware. You can prune off small branches with the caterpillars or scrap them off into a container and dispose of them. Also, when they're small, a good strong jet of water from a hose may wash them off," she says.

The caterpillars start to hatch from their egg bands soon after the trees begin to leaf out. They are very small and black in color after hatching. They also tend to cluster together.

As they get larger and molt, they take on the more familiar look with a dark brown body, wide blue stripe down each side and row of white or cream colored footprint shaped spots down their back.

North says many people have asked about a biological insecticide for use on tent caterpillars. The product, called Bt, is a bacterium that only affects the larvae of moths and butterflies. "That makes it safe for use around humans, wildlife, birds, fish and beneficial insects," she says.

To be effective, the tent caterpillars must ingest the bacterium, so timing of the application is critical. Caterpillars must be at least one to two cm long, spraying should cover the foliage well, there shouldn't be rain for 24 hours and mid-day temperatures should reach at least 15 to 20°C. The bacterium is sold as Thuricide or organic insect killer.

(Cont'd)

Early caterpillar control important (cont'd)

This biological insecticide doesn't kill caterpillars immediately. The caterpillars stop feeding within a day and they die within seven to ten days.

There are also a variety of insecticides on the market for controlling tent caterpillars. Registered products include: carbaryl (trade name Sevin), methoxychlor, diazinon, malathion and pyrethrin. As well, North says insecticidal soap works when caterpillars are small.

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Contact: Pam North
472-6043

May 22, 1989
For immediate release

Selecting and planting bedding plants

The rush is now on to buy bedding plants and get them in gardens and flower boxes so summer can be filled with color.

"Before you buy bedding plants you should prepare your soil and also consider what type of annuals are best suited for your location," says Pam North, information officer at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre in Edmonton.

"Every two years organic matter should be added to the soil. Add at least a half inch of peat moss or well rotted manure. Also apply an all purpose garden fertilizer like 16-20-0. Ideally, a soil test should also be done," she says.

Before choosing annuals, consideration should be given to their location. If the garden is in a shady area, choose begonias, impatiens and violas. Geraniums, marigolds, petunias, zinnias, snapdragons and portulaca thrive in bright sunny areas.

"There are lots of new and unusual annual flowers. It's nice to try something new, say browallia, gazanic or schizanthus (butterfly flower). The nice thing about annuals is that you can change them from year to year," she says.

When buying plants choose stocky, dark green vigorous plants with no yellow leaves. Choose compact plants, rather than spindly ones.

Evenings or a cool day are the best times to transplant bedding plants. "If you transplant when it's hot and sunny, it may cause the plants to suffer from transplant shock," she adds.

North has several other transplanting tips. First, dig a hole large enough to accommodate the root system. If the plants aren't grown in cell packs, gently separate the plants keeping as much soil around the roots as possible. Leave a slight depression or well around the plant to hold water and water the plant well.

Bedding plants can be fertilized when they are transplanted. North suggests watering them with a high phosphorous fertilizer starter solution like 10-52-10.

(Cont'd)

Selecting and planting bedding plants (cont'd)

North also warns if there is a risk of frost to be prepared to cover plants to protect them. Tarps, burlap or olds sheets suspended over stakes can be used to shield plants from frost.

For more information about bedding plants, contact North at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre at 472-6043.

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Contact: Pam North
472-6043

May 22, 1989
For immediate release

Regional home economist honored by peers

Over the last 32 years Edith Zawadiuk has left an indelible mark on north east Alberta rural families.

Her dedication and professionalism were recently recognized with the highest honor the Alberta Home Economic Association can bestow on one of its members, a fellow award.

The fellow award is based on service to the profession, service to the community, integrity and leadership. "In her nomination we cited that in everything Edith has done, and does do, she has maintained a high personal and professional code of ethics," says Deborah Gargus. Gargus, a home economics teacher in Andrew, was one of the people who nominated Zawadiuk.

Zawadiuk has been the regional home economist for Alberta Agriculture's north east region since 1975. She joined Alberta Agriculture in 1957 shortly after graduating from University of Alberta with her BSc degree in home economics. Home economists were still a relatively new phenomenon and Zawadiuk's district covered a lot of territory.

EDITH ZAWADIUK

At the start, her St. Paul district boundaries included the Counties of Thorhild and St. Paul, the Municipal District of Bonnyville and the Lac La Biche Improvement District. Twice the boundaries were revised during her almost nine years as St. Paul DHE.

The communities Zawadiuk worked in covered a broad cultural spectrum. Organizing and conducting home economics extension activities extended into the Saddle Lake and Kchewin Indian reserves. Her work with both home economics and agricultural programs were recognized by the Saddle Lake Band when she was made a Princess of the band.

(Cont'd)

Regional home economist honored by peers (cont'd)

After a six year stint with the federal-provincal ARDA program, she returned to Two Hills as DHE and program assistant for extension home economics in the north east.

Zawadiuk has also been a familiar figure with the 4-H program in the north east. She has been involved with the 4-H program through her job and her own interest at the club, district, regional and provincial levels.

Her diverse experience and willingness to share has made her an excellent resource to not only the home economists she has worked with, but to other professionals and non-professionals in the communities she has served. "Edith is valued for her leadership and common sense as well her high degree of professionalism," says Gargus.

Zawadiuk's community service extends beyond her immediate community. Professionally, she has been an active member of the Lakeland branch of the Alberta Home Economics Association since its inception in 1978. At the provincial level, she was professional development chairman between 1986 and 1988. She has also been a member of the Canadian Home Economics Association since 1976. In 1983 she was made an honorary life member of the Canadian Society of Extension.

In 1984 she was elected to the University of Alberta Senate and was re-elected for another three year term in 1987. She co-chaired a task force on education to the north in 1987-88. She has also been active on a number of committees and on the Faculty of Extension Council.

May 22, 1989
For immediate release

Pasture leasing initial survey results

Initial 1989 grazing rates survey results by Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch show a wide range of rates based on local conditions.

"Grazing rates on private grass range from $5 to $16.21 per cow calf pair per month or animal unit month (AUM) basis," says Garth Nickorick, an Alberta Agriculture farm management economist. The most common rates are between $10 and $12 per pair per month with the average rate at $10.50.

In the Edmonton north region rates are more commonly in the $5 to $10 range, while Edmonton south rates are between $10 and $15 per pair per month.

"These rates reflect local conditions that include cattle numbers, grass availability, grass quality and water availability," he says.

In 56 per cent of the surveyed agreements, the renter was responsible for fence maintenance. In three per cent of the agreements the land lord and renter split fence maintenance costs and landlords had complete responsibility in 41 per cent of the agreements.

Written pasture lease agreements totalled 52 per cent and verbal agreements, 48 per cent in the survey.

For more information contact Nickorick at the farm business management branch in Olds at 556-4247.

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Contact: Garth Nickorick
556-4247

May 22, 1989
For immediate release

Leasing capital cost allowance change in federal budget

Farmers considering leasing machinery should know about changes announced in the recent federal budget says an Alberta Agriculture farm management economist.

"The intent of the changes are tax neutral for the farmer lessee. They reduce capital cost allowance deductions for the lessor--machinery dealers and manufacturers," says Garth Nickorick, of the farm business management branch in Olds.

He adds how the system works is fairly complex. "The eligible amount of capital cost allowance lessors, the machinery dealers and manufacturers, can deduct has been reduced. Deductible capital cost allowance is limited to the amount that would have been a repayment of principal if the lease had been a loan and rental payments had been blended principal and interest payments. The net effect is that some of the tax benefits received by lessors and previously passed on to producers will not be available in the future," he says.

The second change allows the lessor and lessee to make a joint decision--joint election, in tax language--to permit the farmer lessee to claim the capital cost allowance on the leased machine as well as interest rather than lease payments. The lease payment itself, however, is not deductible.

Interest is calculated through a complex formula says Nickorick. "It is based," he says quoting the budget documents, "on the fair market value of the machine at the time of the lease at a rate equal to one percentage point plus the long term Government of Canada bond rate for the last Wednesday of the first month of the preceding quarter".

At the end of the lease period, the leased machine is deemed to be sold at the lessor's unclaimed capital cost base. The producer's (lessee's) unclaimed capital cost is deducted from the lessor's unclaimed capital cost base.

(Cont'd)

Leasing capital cost allowance change in federal budget (cont'd)

Nickorick adds only dealers licensed under the Farm Implement Act can lease new machinery.

For more information contact Garth Nickorick at the farm business management branch in Olds at 556-4247.

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Contact: Garth Nickorick
556-4247

May 22, 1989
For immediate release

Alberta women's week coming in July

Since 1929 Alberta Women's Week has given farm women the opportunity to develop knowledge, attitudes and skills needed for daily living and adapting to the changing world.

The 1989 version, and 59th annual, Alberta Women's Week is July 17 through 20 at Olds College. Its theme is "living, learning...and loving it". Keynote speaker David Irvine, a family counsellor, consultant and educator, will expand on that theme.

He keys on individuals reaching their potential while enjoying life to the fullest. As well as personal development, he looks at building the capabilities of families and organizations.

"Every participant can tailor how they spend their time at the conference. There are over 20 select-a-sessions to choose from," says Holly Pidzarko, district home economist in Ponoka and publicity chairman for the conference. Topics range from marriage enrichment and family communication to a sewing update and tracing your family history.

The program and activities at the annual conference have always stayed current. At this year's event, participants can take a closer look at agricultural diversification by going on one of two tours.

Tour one is to the Carstairs area to visit Custom Woolen Mills and the Pasu Sheep Farm. The second tour looks at Alberta's growing fruit and vegetable industry. Pearson Berry Farm and Becks (carrot) Farm in the Innisfail area are on that tour agenda.

The conference also features some special activities says Pidzarko. Evening entertainment includes a multicultural extravaganza, a dinner theatre presentation, "Little Miss Fresno", and a desert party with musical entertainment.

Morning thoughts, a time for inspiration or reflection, and gentle gym are also part of the conference agenda.

(Cont'd)

Alberta women's week coming in July (cont'd)

"Alberta Women's Week is also an affordable break. The total cost of registration, accommodation and meals is less than $100," notes Collen Pierce, Bonnyville district home economist and publicity committee member.

Registration brochures will be available soon from Alberta Agriculture district home economists. Registrations prior to June 30 will be eligible for an early bird draw.

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Contact: Holly Pidzarko
783-7072

Colleen Pierce
826-3388

May 22, 1989
For immediate release

Moderation not martydom

For years diet researchers, health care professionals, government agencies and other "experts" have looked for ways to make our diet more healthy says Alberta Agriculture's provincial food and nutrition specialist.

"Many people have rushed from one diet promise to another without satisfaction in the quest for easy answers," says Aileen Whitmore.

"Now, after all those years of experimenting with diets, health officials are still recommending an old fashioned balanced diet eaten with restraint.

"Moderation, not martydom, is the best advice when selecting a diet. Eat everything, and not too much of anything. No single food causes or cures a disease. You whole diet and lifestyle makes the difference," she adds.

Too many calories, and not particular foods, are now widely recognized as the health culprit, she says. "Caloric intake has more impact on blood cholesterol levels than the intake of either dietary cholesterol or fat. One of the most effective, but not necessarily popular ways to lower cholesterol is to lose weight."

Some authorities say by lowering the fat content of your diet, you also lower the cholesterol level of your blood. "Keep in mind that fat is the richest source of calories, however, it's not so much the source as the total caloric intake that makes the difference," says Whitmore.

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Contact: Aileen Whitmore
427-2412

May 22, 1989
For immediate release

New home economist in Wetaskiwin

Wetaskiwin's new district home economist (DHE) brings experience from three other district offices and a strong rural background to her new job.

Leona Staples was most recently district home economist in Cardston for two years. She first worked for Alberta Agriculture in 1985 as a summer assistant in the Three Hills office. She also spent nine months as DHE in Medicine Hat.

LEONA STAPLES

Her job in Medicine Hat followed shortly after her 1986 graduation from University of Alberta with a BSc in home economics.

Originally from a mixed grain and cattle farm north of Innisfail, Staples was actively involved in both 4-H and Rural Education Development Association (REDA) programs.

Working with district 4-H clubs is one of Staples responsibilities as DHE. "I've really enjoyed the warm welcome from 4-H clubs in the Wetaskiwin area," she says.

As district home economist she provides information to farm families and organizes activities about finance, consumer education, food and nutrition, housing and clothing and textiles.

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Contact: Leona Staples
352-1307

May 22, 1989
For immediate release

Agri-News Briefs

GREENHOUSE GROWERS PROMOTE EFFORTS WITH TOUR

A recent greenhouse tour in central and northern Alberta familiarized wholesalers and retailers with locally grown high quality plants. The Alberta Greenhouse Growers Association (AGGA) with assistance from the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre organized the tour. Fifteen members of the wholesale trade including MacDonalds Consolidated, Horne and Pitfield, Scott National, The Grocery People and Speidels Flowers toured the five greenhouses. They saw greenhouses growing cut flowers such as alstormeria, frisea, anemones and roses. Wholesalers have been showing a lot of interest in alstromeria, a relatively new greenhouse cut flower. Bedding plants, potted chrysanthemums and seedling plugs were other tour highlights. Tour participants also saw the Pick and Pack operation in Lacombe, a group of seedless cucumber growers. The tour emphasized that Alberta's greenhouse industry is a vital part of the provincial agricultural industry say the tour organizers. There are more than 150 greenhouse acres growing vegetables, flowers, bedding plants and tree seedlings. For more information contact AGGA president Dietrich Kuhlmann, at 476-3384 or AGGA secretary Dave Gourlay at 387-4285.

ELLERSLIE FEEDER'S DAY

Practical demonstrations and panel discussions cover a broad range of topics at the annual feeder's day at the University of Alberta Ellerslie Research Station on June 1. Calving difficulties, forage and grain quality, the animal welfare movement, feed additives and implants, carcass composition and beef research are on the agenda. The program starts at 9 a.m. and runs through the afternoon. For more information contact Mark Makarechian at 492-1316.

(Cont'd)

Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

MAY 31 SUMMER FARM EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM APPLICATION DEADLINE

Applications for the Summer Farm Employment program must be in to Agriculture Employment Service offices by May 31. Any full time Alberta farmers is eligible to hire a student and receive assistance in paying his or her wages through the programs. Up to half of the employee's monthly wage to a maximum of $330 for each month of the program is paid by the government. Jobs will run from July 3 to August 31, 1989. Student applicants must be at least 15 years of age. Farmers may not apply to employ family members. Application forms are available through Alberta Agriculture district offices or through local Agriculture Employment Service offices. The Summer Farm Employment program was introduced 18 years ago and has provided summer employment for over 31,000 students while helping farmers meet their seasonal labor requirements. For more information call Dave Manchak, manager of agriculture manpower programs at 427-2405.

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AGRI-NEWS

May 29, 1989

For immediate release

JUN - 6 1989

This Week

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Information Services Division

May 29, 1989
For immediate release

Spring stubble moisture picture

Surface soil moisture was generally good across the province as seeding got underway this month says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"Some areas will soon require rain, particularly for germination of canola crops. Precipitation would be especially advantageous in the east central and southern regions of the province," says Dick Heywood. Heywood is a water management specialist with the conservation and development branch and is based in Lethbridge.

East central Alberta, particularly in the Wainwright, Vermilion areas north to Lac La Biche, is drier than normal he says. [See attached map of spring stubble soil moisture]

The south eastern area of the province, from Wainwright south to Lethbridge, is still feeling the affects of little soil moisture storage between the fall of 1987 and the fall of 1988. Reserves on fallow are between 50 and 75 mm (two to three inches) below normal.

"In this region, from south of the Battle River, crops will need adequate levels of moisture well distributed through the growing season," says Heywood.

Western areas of the province have positive crop outlooks. Heywood says areas south of the North Saskatchewan and west of Edmonton, Red Deer and Calgary all had high stubble soil moisture at the beginning of the month.

In the Peace River region, the northern Peace has good reserves at this time. The southern Peace region around Beaverlodge, Grande Prairie and Valleyview is drier than normal. However, the crop outlook is still encouraging says Heywood.

Information for the spring moisture report was collected in more than 275 fields across the province and from precipitation data from more than 40 stations.

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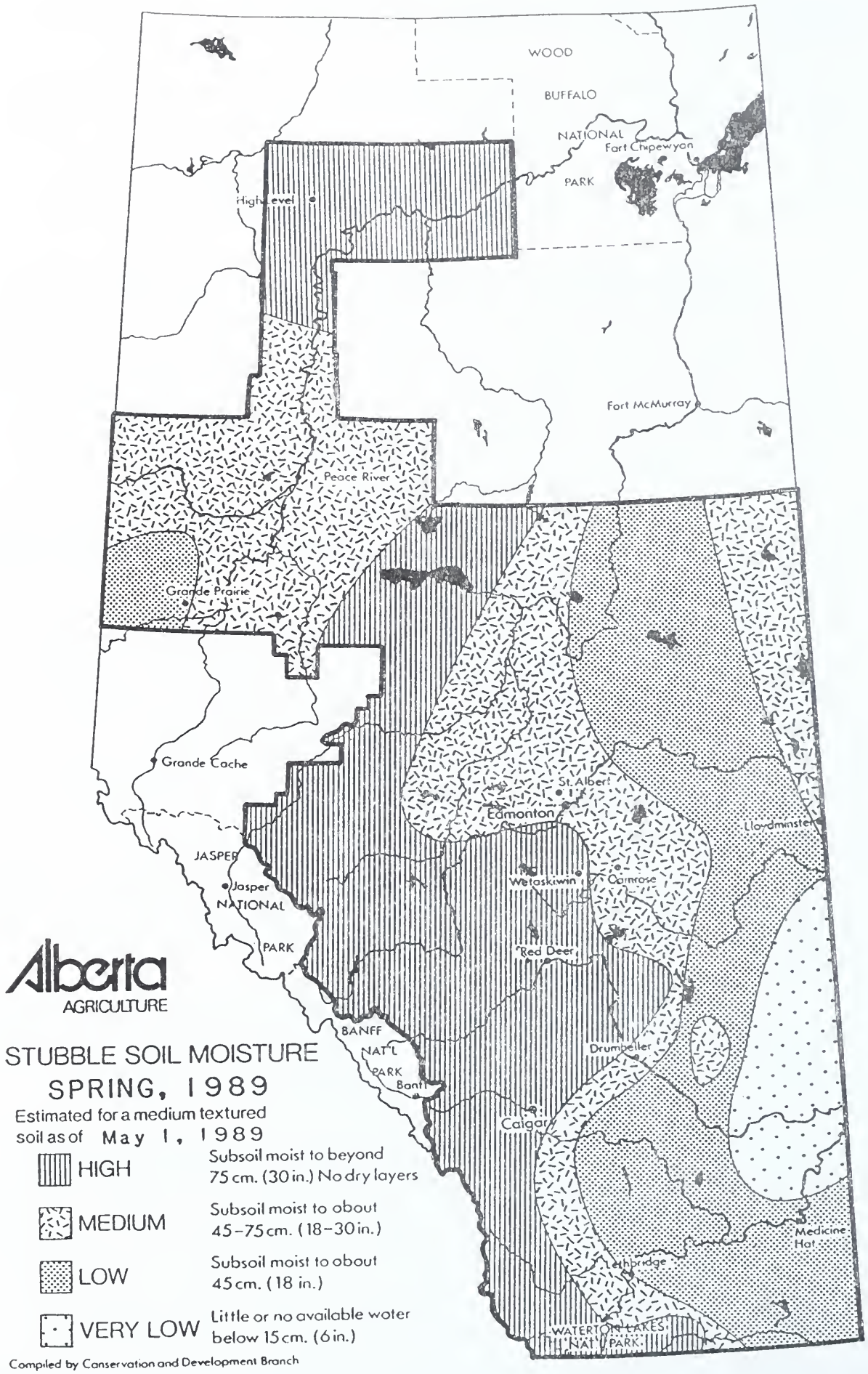
Contact: Dick Heywood
381-5861


WOOD
BUFFALO
NATIONAL
PARK
Fort Chipewyan
High Level
Fort McMurray
Peace River
Grande Prairie
Grande Cache
JASPER
NATIONAL
PARK
Jasper
St. Albert
Edmonton
Lloydminster
Wetaskiwin
Camrose
Red Deer
BANFF
NAT'L
PARK
Banff
Calgary
Drumheller
Medicine Hat
Lethbridge
WATERTON LAKES
NAT'L PARK
Alberta
AGRICULTURE
STUBBLE SOIL MOISTURE
SPRING, 1989
Estimated for a medium textured soil as of May 1, 1989
HIGH
Subsoil moist to beyond 75 cm. (30 in.) No dry layers
MEDIUM
Subsoil moist to about 45–75 cm. (18–30 in.)
LOW
Subsoil moist to about 45 cm. (18 in.)
VERY LOW
Little or no available water below 15 cm. (6 in.)
Compiled by Conservation and Development Branch

May 29, 1989
For immediate release

Hike promotes farm safety

For the third year the Women of Unifarm are inviting Alberta farm families to take a safety hike around their farm.

A new farm safety hike guide, aimed at pre-schoolers and their parents, will be unveiled on June 12 by Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley and Associate Minister Shirley McClellan.

"Potential danger areas on the farm are identified in the guide. We hope families will walk through their yard and look at these areas. Our guide has an activity, with questions, for the children at each area. There are also helpful hints for the parents," says Jacqueline Galloway, vice-president of Women of Unifarm.

The guide-directed hike takes families through the farm yard, by water wells and dugouts, into the barn and by machinery. Alberta Agriculture's farm safety program has supported and assisted the Women of Unifarm with this continuing project.

Families can also win prizes by participating in the hike. The last page of the guide can be colored and entered to win a variety of farm safety equipment, says Galloway.

Guides will be available in mid June through any Alberta Agriculture district office, from Women of Unifarm local representatives and the Unifarm office at 14815-119 Avenue in Edmonton.

For more information about the kick-off safety hike, contact Galloway or the Unifarm office at 451-5912.

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Contact: Jacqueline Galloway
998-0701

May 29, 1989
For immediate release

Balancing meat's fat facts

Since studies confirmed the dangers of too much fat in our diets, a more health conscious public has tried to put the scientific discovery into practical use.

"Many Canadians are still unsure or misinformed about how to lower their dietary fat intake," says Aileen Whitmore, Alberta Agriculture's food and nutrition specialist. "The fact is that some people have over-reacted, thinking that if a little moderation is good, drastic changes are even better.

"Some adults have made the mistake of cutting out whole food groups. Meat is often avoided in the belief that it is impossible to include meat in a low fat diet," she says.

Whitmore says fat in meat is not all bad. Fat provides energy, aids in absorption of fat soluble vitamins and provides essential fatty acids. Meat itself provides protein, iron, zinc and B vitamins that are part of a healthy diet, she says.

Reducing fat doesn't mean cutting out meat, but cutting out unnecessary fats in a variety of ways, Whitmore says. One way is through trimming fat on meat cuts. A 90 gram trimmed sirloin steak saves 36 calories and four grams of fat in comparison to an untrimmed steak. Whitmore also says you take about 135 calories and 15 grams of fat from half a chicken breast by taking off the skin.

Product substitution also can make a difference. Drinking skim milk instead of whole milk, using reduced calorie dressing, having two slices of toast instead of a croissant or baking a potato instead of having french fries all save in terms of reducing calories and fat.

"And while making your peanut butter sandwich consider that a 30 grams slice of ham, beef or pork has 108 less calories and 12 grams less of fat than 30 mL of peanut butter," adds Whitmore.

(Cont'd)

Balancing meat's fat facts (cont'd)

Reading the label on processing products can also save the consumer both fat intake and calories. Water packed tuna (125 mL serving) has 54 less calories and six less grams of fat, than tuna canned in oil.

"These tips are practical and they also show with minimal effort and without removing meat from your daily menu, you can still have less fat in your diet," says Whitmore.

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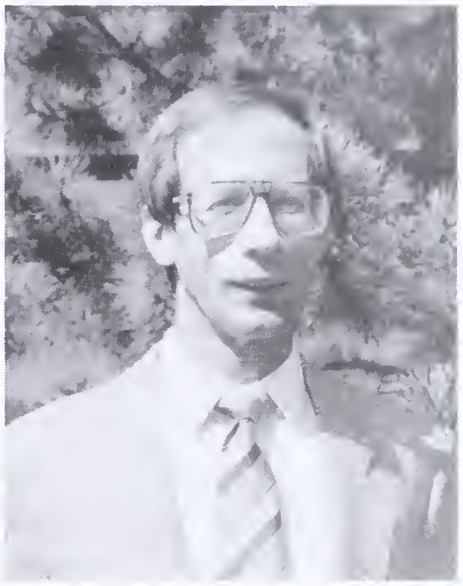
Contact: Aileen Whitmore
427-2412

May 29, 1989
For immediate release

New soil conservation section head

Alberta Agriculture's new soil conservation section head brings 16 years of experience in soil conservation work to his new job.

Hank Vander Pluym is especially knowledgeable about dryland salinity control. Vander Pluym was stationed in Lethbridge as Alberta Agriculture's soil salinity specialist for 16 years. His work took him across the province.



HANK VANDER PLUYM

During his years in Lethbridge he has also dealt with wind and water erosion and other soil conservation issues. His work has been carried out in close co-operation with other branches and departments, as well as local and federal governments.

He says he intends to expand this co-operative work. "I'm looking forward to working with Agricultural Service Boards and other agencies to continue the momentum we've built in soil conservation awareness and implementation of conservation practices," he says.

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Contact: Hank Vander Pluym
422-4385

May 29, 1989
For immediate release

Red Deer has new regional farm economist

A former Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist is the new regional farm economist for north central Alberta.

Ted Ford, most recently district agriculturist in Rimbey, will be based in Red Deer. The area he will serve runs from Rocky Mountain House in the west, east to the Saskatchewan border and from Innsifail in the south to Camrose in the north.

"i'm looking forward to working with farm families in the north central region and meeting people throughout the region," he says.

As regional farm economist, Ford is available to assist farm families with farm business management, production economics, tax planning, business arrangements and other farm economics topics.

Ford's first post as a district agriculturist was in Vegreville following his graduation from University of Alberta in 1982. He holds a BSc degree in agriculture with a major in economics.

During the 1970's, after attending Olds College, Ford worked as a farm management technician in Drumheller and Valleyview.

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Contact: Ted Ford
340-5358

Editor's Note

Handling pesticides--herbicides, insecticides and fungicides--is one of the dangerous aspects of farming. The following series on protective clothing offers information on safer handling and less exposure for the farmer. It's hoped you will be able to use all or part of these articles over the next weeks to remind farmers that protective gear is an important part of their work routine.

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May 29, 1989
For immediate release

Protective glove fit and comfort studied

Researchers estimate hands account for anywhere from 27 to 90 per cent of the chemical exposure farmers receive while working with farm chemicals. They've also found a large percentage of farmers don't wear protective gloves when handling chemicals.

Poor fit, lack of comfort and interference with finger dexterity are the reasons farmers cite for not wearing gloves. Two University of Alberta researchers are currently evaluating the functional fit and comfort of protective gloves.

The glove study is part of an ongoing research program at the university's department of clothing and textiles. Over the last five years Farming for the Future has funded this continuing research effort in the area of protective clothing.

"To be successful, protective gloves must be designed to meet the needs of farmers," says Alberta Agriculture's Bertha Eggertson, provincial clothing and textiles specialist. Eggertson has been working with the researchers.

Julie Tremblay, a research assistant on the glove study, says results from recent surveys indicate that gloves currently available aren't functionally designed to meet the needs of agricultural workers.

"In most cases, using gloves means trading off comfort and dexterity for protection. Problems noted included poor fit, loss of dexterity, thermal discomfort and a limited range of sizes manufactured or in stock at local suppliers.

"The two common dexterity problems are a loss of sensitivity in the fingers and the buckling of glove materials in the palm of the hand," she says.

Hand dimensions currently used by glove manufacturers aren't based on agricultural workers' hand sizes and result in poor fitting gloves, she adds.

The study's objective is to increase the acceptance and adoption of hand protection and decrease risk of pesticide exposure by improving the quality of glove fit.

(Cont'd)

Protective glove fit and comfort studied (cont'd)

In the first phase of the study, 19 specific hand measurements important in protective glove design were collected from a sample of almost 400 agricultural workers. Based on this data, the second phase will determine if the size range of four commercially available chemical protective gloves provide a functional fit for the users.

The study will also determine agricultural workers' preferences and the difference in functional fit among protective gloves. Different polymer (material) types, material thickness and manufacturers will be examined.

"We hope to make conclusions about the amount of ease needed in key glove dimensions to accommodate hand size variation, and yet provide a good fit to individual workers," says Tremblay.

Tremblay also says research is urgently needed to determine the chemical resistance of protective gloves. "No glove can resist all chemicals and withstand all work hazards. Little data is available on breakthrough time and permeation rate of glove materials to the active ingredients in pesticides," she says.

Neoprene and nitrile gloves are recommended for the spraying season. They have good chemical resistance and are in an affordable price range, she says. Gloves should be removed carefully to avoid inside contamination, kept clean and examined frequently.

"Farmers should keep in mind that all gloves will eventually be penetrated by chemicals. It's important to check gloves for pin holes by putting water in them and looking for leaks. Also check for cracks and discoloration. Immediately replace them with a new pair if there are signs of degradation. Washing gloves after each use may help to slow down the degradation process," she advises.

A number of gloves aren't recommended. Lined gloves are difficult to clean. Tremblay also says to avoid latex rubber, natural rubber, polyvinyl choloride (PVC) and polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) gloves.

Contact: Bertha Eggertson
427-2412

Julie Tremblay
492-7216

May 29, 1989
For immediate release

Farmers must remember protective clothing

While farmers wage battles against insects and weeds they should make sure they won't join the casualty list from the chemicals they use.

"Farm chemicals are dangerous, that's the bottom line. They also are a part of modern farming, so farmers must protect their health while handling pesticides," says Bertha Eggertson, Alberta Agriculture's provincial clothing and textile specialist.

Studies have shown that wearing recommended clothing and following chemical-use directions reduce the health risk to farmers. Protecting themselves is just good common sense, she adds. "Farmers use shields and guards around hazardous machinery. Some of these chemicals can be just as dangerous, so farmers need to use protective clothing and equipment."

Clothing acts as a barrier to skin absorption of pesticides. Several layers provide better protection, she says.

Basic protective clothing includes a long sleeved shirt, full-length trousers, coveralls, neoprene or unlined nitrile gloves, neoprene overboots or long rubber boots and a wide-brimmed hard hat.

Eggertson notes that there are three levels of toxicity among agricultural chemicals and protection should increase with the toxicity level. A 'caution' label indicates slightly toxic, 'warning' labels mean moderately toxic and 'danger' labels indicate highly toxic chemicals.

How the chemicals are used also plays a role in how farmers should protect themselves. "When mixing or handling chemicals farmers should wear a waterproof or neoprene bib apron," she says.

Protective equipment is also important. The amount of necessary equipment also varies with the toxicity of the chemical. Protective head gear includes a hard hat, goggles or face shield and a respirator.

Goggles protect eyes from pesticide vapors, dust and splashes, while respirators prevent inhalation of dusts, powders and sprays into the lungs.

(Cont'd)

Farmers must remember protective clothing (cont'd)

Along with wearing the clothing and equipment, farmers also must clean their non-disposable gear after each wearing. "Special washing procedures need to be followed to ensure the farmer isn't reusing contaminated clothing," says Eggertson.

There are a number of precautions to be taken when cleaning clothes and equipment. Pesticide-soiled clothing must be washed separately from regular family laundry. Protective clothing should be washed daily. It's also a good idea to wear rubber gloves when handling pesticide-soiled clothing.

Hot water, a full washer level, a normal cycle and heavy duty detergent should all be used. Clothing should also be re-washed and line dried to avoid contaminating the dryer. After washing, the machine should be rinsed thoroughly by using the full wash cycle.

"All these steps are time consuming, but your family's health is certainly worth the time and effort," says Eggerston.

Equipment should also be washed in hot soapy water. Gloves should be checked daily for pin holes and discarded if cracked or discolored. Respirator cartridges or disposable respirators should be changed at the first sign of chemical odor.

For more information on protective clothing and equipment contact any Alberta Agriculture district office or write for the publication, "Protective Clothing for Pesticide Use" (Homedex 1353-90) from the Publications Office, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, T6H 5T6.

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Contact: Bertha Eggertson
427-2412

May 29, 1989
For immediate release

Disposable coveralls extra layer of protection

Wearing disposable coveralls has advantages for farmers concerned about protecting themselves from exposure to pesticides says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"As well as being an extra layer of protection, disposable coveralls can also add to peace of mind. Being able to discard the disposables and not worry about whether the pesticide has been removed during laundering can ease concerns about pesticide exposure," says Bertha Eggertson, provincial clothing and textile specialist.

She adds farmers should make sure the disposable coveralls they buy have been recommended by the manufacturer for pesticide use. "If they aren't recommended, then don't buy or use them. Some disposal coveralls aren't suitable for pesticide use. Read the label and ask questions," she advises.

Suitable disposable coveralls can be bought for around $10 she says. Kimberly-Clark KleenGuard Extra Protection coveralls are specially treated to resist liquid penetration. The white with red stitching coverall is recommended. Green and blue stitched coveralls don't have the repellency finish.

Disposable coveralls should be worn over basic protective clothing. This includes a long sleeved shirt, full-length trousers, coveralls, gloves, boots and hat. "Even if you buy the disposable coverall, it's just an extra layer of protection. It shouldn't be the farmer's only protection," reminds Eggertson.

The disposable coveralls should be replaced if they rip, tear, develop holes or thin spots or if fibres are raised to the surface forming pills. When discarding a disposable coverall, place it in a plastic garbage bag and take it to a landfill site. Don't burn it.

(Cont'd)

Disposable coveralls extra layer of protection (cont'd)

All work clothes worn under disposables should be laundered according to recommended procedures for contaminated clothing.

For more information about protective clothing contact your Alberta Agriculture district office or Eggertson at 427-2412.

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Contact: Bertha Eggertson
427-2412

May 29, 1989
For immediate release

Use protective clothing information

Alberta Agriculture has a number of sources for farm families who need information on protective clothing and how to make farm chemical use more safe.

"If farmers are unsure about safety gear they need this spring as they spray their crops, we have a number of resources available to them," says Bertha Eggertson, Alberta Agriculture's clothing and textiles specialist.

An eight minute video, "Suit up for Safety", can be borrowed through any Alberta Agriculture district office. The VHS video discusses the need for protective clothing, lists recommended items and the value of disposable protective clothing such as coveralls and gloves.

Alberta Agriculture's "blue book", the "Guide to Crop Protection in Alberta 1989, Part 1 Chemical", has an extensive section on safety precautions. The guide details how to reduce exposure, protective clothing and equipment, storage and cleaning of contaminated clothing, symptoms of poisoning and first aid information.

Much of the same information is also available through an Alberta Agriculture pamphlet, "Protective Clothing for Pesticide Use". The publication also details what not to wear. This includes cloth or leather gloves, leather shoes or sneakers, a baseball cap and wrist watch with a leather band.

"All these materials absorb chemicals and prolong exposure to the wearer," says Eggertson.

The publication is available through Alberta Agriculture district offices and the Alberta Agriculture Publications Office, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, T5H 5T6. Please quote Homedex number 1353-90.

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Contact: Bertha Eggertson
427-2412

Editor's Note

The federal budget last month was big news for all Canadians. In this series of articles Merle Good, an Alberta Agriculture farm management economist and tax specialist, takes a look at some of the specifics of the budget for farmers. As well as a budget overview, this series looks at personal income tax measures, corporate tax changes, specific measures related to the farm business, agricultural programs and subsidies and the National Sales Tax.

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May 29, 1989
For immediate release

Battle of the deficit bulge

The 1989 federal budget will undoubtedly be remembered by farmers as the budget that not only sprung a leak in its release, but also in farm support programs.

"Alberta farmers, from a business perspective, can view this budget as positive because the $500,000 capital gains exemption remains and there were no major changes in how their expenses are deducted. However, they can be concerned with the potential increase in producer premiums in the crop insurance program, price increases and rebate reductions in farm fuels, the loss of interest free loans on the Advance Payment Act and most important their ultimate status with a "goods and services" tax," says Merle Good of Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch.

The main thrust of the budget was to hit squarely at a bulging public debt through revenue increases and cuts on public expenditures. Last year, in fiscal 1988-89, government expenditures were $133 billion. Interest payments on public debt were $33 billion or almost one-quarter of total federal government spending. The federal public debt stood at $320 billion on April 1. It's equal to one-half of Canada's gross domestic product (GNP).

Finance Minister Michael Wilson proposed attacking this deficit through a three times greater increase in revenues over spending cuts. His objective is to decrease the annual federal deficit to $15 billion in five years.

Federal agricultural spending increased from $3.2 billion in 1984-5 to $5.8 billion in 1987-88, notes Good. Major subsidies and transfers totalled $11.2 billion in 1988-89. Approximately one-quarter, or $2.8 billion, was used to stabilize and protect farm incomes.

(Cont'd)

Battle of the deficit bulge (cont'd)

Some specific agricultural programs and subsidies are targeted for spending cuts. A realignment is proposed in the current cost-sharing of crop insurance. Ottawa will save $90 million this fiscal year and $110 million next year with the proposed shift. This may mean greater costs for the provinces and producers.

The Prairie Branchline Rehabilitation program will be terminated one year ahead of schedule to save $52 million. Some of that saving, $16 million, is slated to go to the System Improvement Reserve (SIR) fund. "It's expected to have a minimal impact in Alberta, as our province has significantly fewer branchlines than Saskatchewan and Manitoba," says Good.

A savings of $27 million is the target of no longer providing interest free advance payments from the Canadian Wheat Board Cash Advance Program and the Advance Payments for Crops Act. The use of cash advances varies considerably from year to year, depending on the Wheat Board quota situation and the overall farm income situation. The interest rate charged will probably be the prescribed tax rate, changed quarterly. The current rate is 12 per cent.

Reductions in foreign aid will also have a farm impact. Foreign aid will be cut by $1.8 billion over five years. Food aid supplied by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) will decrease. CIDA has assisted in canola oil sales and has been used to facilitate export of dry beans grown in southern Alberta.

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Contact: Merle Good
556-4237

May 29, 1989
For immediate release

Farm fuel one budget casualty

Farmers will see some income protection measures dwindle with the spending cuts announced in the recent federal budget.

Farm fuel rebates will go down, leaded gas excises taxes will go up and the net effect is an increase in fuel prices. By January 1, 1990 leaded gasoline will cost eight cents per litre more and diesel four cents more.

"Increases in fuel prices were expected, but the magnitude of the net price increases will have a significant impact on farm incomes," says Merle Good, a tax specialist with Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch in Olds.

At least four other changes will have an impact on some aspect of the business of farming. A one per cent increase of the Federal Sales Tax to nine per cent applies to construction materials and equipment for buildings. Telecommunications and programming services increase to 11 per cent from 10 on June 1. Also on June 1, all other taxable goods will rise to 13.5 per cent from 12 per cent.

A commodity based loan program introduced by the Farm Credit Corporation in 1986 will be cut. No new commodity based loans will be made, saving the federal government $6 million this year and $8.5 million in the next fiscal year.

Farmers and their employees will be faced with an increased UIC premium deduction of approximately 15 to 18 per cent. After January 1, 1990 all unemployment insurance will be financed by premiums without any contributions from government.

Ottawa also plans to restrict capital cost allowance deductible by a lessor leasing property. In farming, this applies to major machinery companies that lease agricultural machinery. Amendments will no longer allow leasing companies to create a tax advantage by claiming depreciation greater than the lease payment they receive.

"Machinery companies will have to review what impact this change will have on their lease agreements. It might result in a fewer available leasing contract for farmers," says Good.

(Cont'd)

Farm fuel one budget casualty (cont'd)

Some farm taxation areas aren't slated for changes notes Good. No changes to the current $500,000 capital gains provisions are included in this budget. "There appear to be no technical amendments that restrict the application of capital gains exemption in non-arms-length sales--family transfers--or business re-organization.

"The farming community was very apprehensive about the potential elimination, reduction or restriction of using the $500,000 capital gains exemption," he says. With no apparent changes farmers can continue to plan their intergenerational transfers, business re-organizations and estate planning with minimal tax implications.

Deducting farm losses will continue to be governed by "reasonable expectation of profit" and "chief source of income" tests which determine if a taxpayer is entitled to deduct all, none or part of farming losses. A further postponement in introducing new measures to clarify what criteria are necessary to be in "the business of farming" and what constitutes "part time or full time" farming was announced on April 19.

This postponement will continue pending analysis of tax reform measures on farm losses. Tax reform measures included flexible inventory election and mandatory investment adjustments. They became law January 1, 1989 and may restrict the amount of farm loss that can be reported dependent on purchased inventory values.

In the area of corporate income tax, incorporated farmers will see no increase in the basic tax rates for companies or an application of a minimum tax levy. There will however, be a slight increase in the present three per cent surtax effective July 1, 1989.

On a personal income tax level, there have been a few changes which may affect the farm population. While Old Age Security pensions and Family Allowance payments will still be universal, high income individuals will be required to repay these benefits at a rate of 15 per cent of net income over $50,000. This will be phased in over three years.

(Cont'd)

Farm fuel one budget casualty (cont'd)

The federal surtax will increase two points to five per cent effective July 1, 1989. An additional surtax will be levied when taxpayers have incomes over $70,000.

The present three year accrual option on investment income will be eliminated. Taxpayers will have to report investment income on investment annually. These rules apply to investment acquired after 1989.

The federal sales tax credit will be increased from $70 to $100 per adult in 1989 and to $140 by 1990. Each dependent child under the age of 19 will be eligible for a credit of $50 in 1989 from the current $35. The rate will rise to $70 in 1990. The federal government says these increases in refundable sales tax credits will more than compensate for increases in the federal sales tax paid by low income earners.

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Contact: Merle Good
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May 29, 1989
For immediate release

Glimmer of hope about VAT

Last month's federal budget had a glimmer of hope that the proposed goods and services tax won't apply to sales of agricultural products says an Alberta Agriculture farm management economist.

"Exempting farmers from the tax may occur because of Michael Wilson's commitment to keep basic groceries exempt from the tax. In the budget he says, 'Agricultural and fisheries product--sales by farmers and fishermen will be tax free. This is the most technically satisfactory means of ensuring there is no tax on basic groceries'." says Merle Good, a tax specialist with the farm business management branch in Olds.

In the budget, Ottawa confirmed its commitment to introduce a value added (VAT) sales tax to replace the current federal sales tax. It would become effective on January 1, 1991 and be levied at a rate of nine per cent.

"If farmers are given tax free status, producers won't have to collect tax on their sales. Instead they would receive a refund on the tax paid for their inputs," says Good. The system would work like this. When a farmer sells $30,000 of wheat, he wouldn't collect any tax. When he pays $10,000 for fertilizer, he must also pay a $900 tax. However he would submit a claim to the federal government for the $900 and receive a refund.

Technical details of how the tax will work will be released in a background paper this summer. "It's very important for the farm community to review this release and provide input to the federal government before the goods and services tax becomes law," says Good.

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Contact: Merle Good
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May 29, 1989
For immediate release

Agri-News Briefs

KEEP KNIVES AND CUTTING BOARDS CLEAN

Food-borne illness affects more than two million Canadians every year. The main bacterial cause of food poisoning is salmonellosis which is commonly found in uncooked meat. While food poisoning is rarely fatal, the cost in medical care, losses suffered by good producers, processors and retailers totals over a billion dollars each year. Usually the symptoms are mild and often people think they have the flu. Salmonella is a natural bacteria found in most animals. People usually contract food poisoning from meat when they don't cook it properly says Aileen Whitmore, Alberta Agriculture's food and nutrition specialist. For example, undercooked hamburgers or bacteria spreading from meat to utensils and cutting boards. Whitmore says it's important to wash knives used for cutting raw meat in hot soapy water. Special care should be taken to wash both cutting boards and counters with hot soapy water before preparing other foods. Especially, she says, if the foods won't be cooked before they are eaten. For more information, contact Aileen Whitmore at 427-2412.

PANEL PROMOTES GREEN FOXTAIL AWARENESS

One of Western Canada's worst weeds is causing concern among farmers and the agricultural industry. A Green Foxtail Awareness Panel has been established to promote awareness and to provide information about the weed. Six weed specialists from the Prairie provinces are the panel members. Increased concern about green foxtail comes from increased infestation levels in the last two years and potential yield losses expected in 1989. Hot dry weather conditions have contributed to the problem. The combination of adverse growing conditions, poorly competitive crops and reduced herbicide performance led to the greatest infestation of green foxtail in history. For more information in Alberta contact Alberta Agriculture's Denise Maurice at 427-7098 or Bob Blackshaw, Agriculture Canada, at 327-4561.

AGRI-NEWS

JUN 19 1989

June 5, 1989

For immediate release

This Week

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Information Services Division

June 5, 1989
For immediate release

Forming oat growers association meeting goal

Alberta oat growers interested in forming a commodity group to promote and improve production and marketing of Alberta oats are meeting June 20 in Edmonton.

"We want to establish an Alberta oat growers association at the meeting and elect an interim executive to get the association up and running," says Ken Motiuk, a Mundare area oat producer.

The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. in one of the main floor conference rooms at Alberta Agriculture headquarters, the J.G. O'Donoghue Building, located at 7000-113 Street in Edmonton.

"We hope to confirm grower support and interest in improving oat production and marketing to take advantage of the existing and expanding market for our high quality oats," says Peter Kirylchuk, a Lac La Biche oat producer.

Also on the agenda is a discussion of the association's objectives, a review of short and long term funding and a review and update on other provincial and national interest in oat commodity groups.

Alberta is one of the premiere oat growing regions in the world. The province's farmers already account for just over half of Canadian production. The province also has great potential for developing an even larger oat industry.

Consumer health concerns have expanded market interest in oats and oat products. Demand for high quality oats from the American horse industry has also fuelled expanded market opportunities for Alberta oats.

An interim committee, that includes farmers and representatives of both the provincial and federal agriculture departments, has been laying the groundwork for an association by tapping the interest of oat growers and looking at association objectives.

(Cont'd)

Forming oat growers association meeting goal (cont'd)

These objectives cover five major areas: to sponsor and encourage research; to develop and assist extension activities about the latest production and marketing techniques; to carry out promotional programs to broaden market awareness of Alberta oats; to address producer issues and concerns related to the oat industry; and, to work with government, processors and dealers to jointly develop the industry.

For more information about the association, interested producers can contact Emile deMilliano with Alberta Agriculture's commodity development section at 427-7366 or Solomon Kibite with Agriculture Canada's Research Station in Lacombe at 782-3316.

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Contact: Ken Motiuk
764-2629

Peter Kirylchuk
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Emile de Milliano
427-7366

Solomon Kibite
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June 5, 1989
For immediate release

Third Derby winner powered by Alberta oats

The run for the roses at Churchill Downs requires a lot of ingredients for success and lately that has included feeding the future Kentucky Derby champion Alberta oats.

The 1989 winner, Sunday Silence, is the third consecutive Kentucky Derby champion to have Alberta oats in its feed rations, says Bob Coleman, an Alberta Agriculture horse industry specialist. Runner-up Easy Goer and pre-race favorite Houston are also fed Alberta oats.

Filly Winning Colors, the 1988 Derby winner, and Alysheba, the previous year's champion, also had Alberta oats on their menu plan.

"Alberta oats are a pretty popular feed for thoroughbred race horses at this level of competition. I think this really shows our agricultural industry and Alberta oat growers that they do a tremendous job in putting out a high quality product," says Coleman.

"It also gives Alberta oat growers something to hang their hat on and go out and do marketing with," he adds.

High and consistent quality accounts for the attraction to Alberta oats, he says. Higher bushel weights are particularly attractive to the horse industry. Alberta oats tend to have higher bushel weights than those from northern American states.

"The higher bushel weight makes it a higher energy feed and really good quality feed," says Coleman.

During a recent trip to Oklahoma, Coleman found feed dealers were marketing "Canadian" oats. "There was a price difference and certainly a difference in the way they talked about our oats. They were really high on Canadian oats, oats that are primarily from Alberta," he says.

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Contact: Bob Coleman
436-9150

June 5, 1989
For immediate release

Farm income projected to drop to 1987 levels

After a sharp rise in 1988, farm incomes are projected to drop back to 1987 levels this year says an Alberta Agriculture statistician.

The 1988 level of just over $1 billion was a significant increase over the $709 million estimate for the previous year says Bill Schissel.

"The healthy rise in Alberta farm income in 1988 had several contributing factors. Substantial program payments, dramatic rises in grain and oilseed market prices and continued strength in the beef sector played a role in the increase. Concern about drought and some pessimism about prices early in 1988 combined to influence producers to keep operating costs down.

"All these factors helped make 1988 an exceptional year in terms of realized net farm income, especially since total agricultural output for the province wasn't affected by the drought as much as was initially expected," he says.

Net farm income is projected to be $714 million in 1989. That's marginally above the 1987 figure of $709 million, notes Schissel. Substantial reductions in program payments in combination with increases in operating expenses will contribute to the decrease, he says.

Farm cash receipts for 1989 are expected to total $50 million less than 1988's $4.398 billion. "The increase in grain prices almost totally offsets the decrease in program payments expected in 1989. However, the projected increases on the input side will have a significant negative impact on realized net income," he says.

Operating expenses are predicted to increase by almost ten per cent to over $3.6 billion in 1989, he says. As well as increases in fertilizer and other crop inputs, livestock expenses will likely increase as more feeder cattle enter the province. Higher crop insurance costs and Western Grain Stabilization premiums will also contribute to increased expenses, he says.

(Cont'd)

"It is refreshing to see returns from the marketplace for grains are on the increase. In 1989, an individual producer's income will depend very much on the quantity of grain he can deliver. However, in areas that suffered reduced yields in 1988, it may be more critical than ever to tightly control operating expenditure," says Schissel.

Producers who feed livestock may need to secure feed supplies for the summer months, he says. "Stocks, which are already low, may become critical as grain producers may be induced to deliver before the significantly lower Canadian Wheat Board payments take affect on August 1."

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Contact: Bill Schissel
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June 5, 1989
For immediate release

Harbison saluted with pork industry leadership award

Alberta Agriculture's Sam Harbison is the 1989 recipient of the Pork Industry Leadership award.

Harbison will be presented with the prestigious award during the Alberta Pork Congress held June 13 through 15 in Red Deer. The Congress presents the award through the sponsorship of Elanco Eli Lilly Canada Inc.

Currently the supervisor of the breeding program at the Swine Breeding Centre in Leduc, Harbison is being recognized for his efforts in program development, extension and applied research over the past 26 years. He has worked with Alberta Agriculture since 1970. He started with the department as a regional 4-H specialist in Vermilion. He soon returned to working with pigs, becoming the supervisor of the swine Record of Performance (ROP) testing program.

In 1978 he got involved with a new challenge, the development of the provincial swine artificial insemination program. This became full-time in 1986 when he was appointed supervisor of the Centre in Leduc.

Harbison's award will be presented at the Awards Luncheon on June 13. Also receiving awards will be the Reiter family, of Iron Springs, as 1989 Progressive Pork Producer and Darwin Millar, of Vermilion, as Herdsman of the Year.

The Congress is celebrating its 15th anniversary this year. The annual event includes educational seminars, swine shows and an industry trade show.

For registration and program information about the Alberta Pork Congress, contact the Congress office in Red Deer at 340-5307.

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Contact: Fred Schuld
427-5320

June 5, 1989
For immediate release

Predator damage control clinic June 27

Every year Alberta producers are robbed of part of their livelihood by a variety of predators.

A one-day clinic in southern Alberta on June 27 will look at some of the ways that damage can be controlled. The clinic is in Spring Coulee and is sponsored by Alberta Agriculture.

One of the foremost experts on guard dogs, American Jeff Green, will be a featured speaker. Green works for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Idaho. An interesting sidelight in his talk will be the use of guard llamas and donkeys, says Eric Hutchings regional problem wildlife specialist based in Lethbridge.

Producers attending the clinic will also learn about anti-predator electric fencing, the role of working dogs and management of range flocks.

One afternoon activity is a field trip to the St. Mary River area where participants will see how sheep are used to control leafy spurge. "The sheep eat the noxious weed providing a natural non-chemical control for the weed," says Hutchings.

The history, current status and future directions of predator damage control in the province will be reviewed by Michael Dolinski, head of Alberta Agriculture's problem wildlife section.

Phil Merrill, problem wildlife specialist in Cardston, will review the use of toxicants, traps, snares, den hunting, calling and shooting.

Producers from across the province are invited to attend says Hutchings. Pre-registration is required by contacting one of the following Alberta Agriculture district offices: Lethbridge at 381-5237; Cardston at 653-4848; or, Pincher Creek at 627-3366.

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Contact: Eric Hutchings
381-5574

June 5, 1989
For immediate release

Alberta 4-H delegate goes to United Kingdom

A ten year Alberta 4-H club member leaves tomorrow via Ottawa for a seven week exchange in the United Kingdom.

Lisa Shuttleworth, 21, from Rolling Hills, Alberta meets four other Canadian delegates in the national capital on the first leg of her overseas exchange in the Shell 4-H United Kingdom exchange.

"This exchange promises to be an informative and exciting experience for Lisa. She'll have many interesting and informative ideas and experiences to share when she returns," says Marguerite Stark, provincial 4-H camping and exchange specialist.

While in Ottawa, the five delegates will get an exchange orientation, attend the House of Commons Question Period and tour the Parliament Buildings. At a special Citizenship Court, they will be presented with their Canadian citizenship. They will also be guests of the British High Commission.

Shuttleworth's first few days in the United Kingdom will be spent at the Royal Cattle Show at the National Agricultural Centre in Kenilworth, Warwickshire. Then, the Canadian delegates will travel to meet their host families. Shuttleworth will stay with four or five different farm families, spending approximately one week with each family.

"This will give her a perfect opportunity to experience the culture as well as having a firsthand look at agriculture, food and natural resources in the United Kingdom," says Stark.

"The Shell United Kingdom Experimental farms in Sittingbourne is another of Lisa's tour stops. It's another excellent way for her to learn more about farming and agriculture abroad," she adds.

The exchange will end where it started at the Royal Show in Warwickshire. Shuttleworth won't be returning to Canada immediately after the exchange ends. Instead, she plans to explore on her own and visit a former exchange delegate who was in Alberta last year.

(Cont'd)

Alberta 4-H delegate goes to the United Kingdom (cont'd)

Shuttleworth's active involvement in both 4-H and her community were factors in her selection as the Alberta exchange delegate. "Her achievements, contributions and commitment to 4-H and her community, as well as her strong interest in agriculture resulted in her selection to represent 4-H, Alberta and Canada in the Shell 4-H United Kingdom exchange," says Stark.

Shuttleworth has completed two years of animal health technology and one year of livestock production at Olds College. She is now completing her course work in Regina.

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Contact: Marguerite Stark
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Laura-Jeanne Lehr
948-8513

June 5, 1989
For immediate release

Agricultural computer conference gains national reputation

What began three years ago as a meeting place for developers of agricultural software, is now a conference of national proportions.

The third annual Agricultural Management Systems--Directions and Visions (AMSDAV) conference was recently held in Calgary. Over 100 participants had the opportunity to hear speakers discuss topics ranging from megatrends in North American agriculture to software product liability. They also sharpened their management and marketing skills in a workshop environment.

"Participants and speakers gave the 1989 conference high marks," says Paul Gervais of Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch. The conference was jointly organized by the branch and Olds College.

Keynote speakers at the conference on computers in agricultural management were Michael Boehlje, of the University of Minnesota, and Daryl Kraft, of the University of Manitoba's Solomon Sinclair Farm Management Institute.

Boehlje spoke about major changes and adjustments currently occurring in the agricultural sector, says Gervais. "He identified eight major forces and trends that will impact on the future of both North American and world agriculture. He also discussed the increasing need for producers to be more oriented toward strategic planning."

Kraft discussed the Canadian agriculture outlook and projected how current production and consumption patterns will affect trade policy.

Other speakers looked at various issues related to computers in agricultural management. Conference participants could also attend intensive management and marketing workshops and seminars. The workshops were designed to help high technology companies compete in the North American agricultural computer products marketplace, says Gervais.

(Cont'd)

University of Saskatchewan's George Lee was the final conference speaker. "He discussed the need for agricultural computing companies to provide on-farm integrated computer information products that produce management information that goes beyond financial statements. Farmers also need more computer information systems that input data directly from the production process, for example current dairy feeding/milking systems," says Gervais.

The conference closed with the first annual meeting of the Canadian Association of Agricultural Computing (CAAC). The association's roots grew from the 1988 AMSDAV conference. "Its mission is to improve productivity of the Canadian agricultural sector by promoting the development and adoption of computer technology and encouraging private and public sector co-operation toward that goal," says Gervais.

For further information about the organization or to obtain a membership, contact J. Wilson Loree at Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0 or call 556-4240.

Next year's AMSDAV conference is slated for Ontario. Co-sponsors are to be the University of Guelph and Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, in co-operation with the CAAC.

Sponsors of the 1989 conference included member companies of the Canadian Association of Agricultural Computing, the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation, the Alberta Wheat Pool, Calgary Stockyards Ltd., the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, IBM Canada Ltd. and the Professional Solution Group.

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Contact: Paul Gervais
556-4250

June 5, 1989
For immediate release

Agri-News Briefs

ALBERTA PORK CONGRESS JUNE 13 THROUGH 15 IN RED DEER

The largest get-together for hog producers and pork industry suppliers is celebrating its 15th anniversary this year. The Alberta Pork Congress, under the theme, "15 years and building", offers three days full of activities at Red Deer's Western Altaplex. Education seminars will examine current industry issues. Featured speaker is Dr. Peter English, an internationally recognized expert in swine production. English is from the University of Aberdeen and will speak each of the three days. Panel discussions will look at industry trends and farm problem analysis and fine tuning. Swine shows and sales are also on the agenda. One highlight is the ballroom sale of competition carcasses on the 14th. The Congress trade show features more than 100 exhibitors from across Western Canada and the U.S. Herdsman of the Year, Progressive Pork Producer and Pork Industry Leadership awards will be presented at an awards luncheon. Several social events including a fashion show and banquet and dance are part of Congress activities. For registration and program information, contact the Alberta Pork Congress office in Red Deer at 340-5307.

MARKETING STRATEGY SEMINAR

The Western Barley Growers Association is sponsoring a marketing strategy seminar on June 28 in Red Deer. Topics include: a technical and fundamental analysis of feed grains, oilseeds and wheat; a livestock and hog outlook; and, free trade opportunities. Speakers include four representatives of Elders Grain Company of Surrey, British Columbia, Anne Dunford, of Canfax, and Tom Penner, of the Canada West Foundation in Calgary. For more information, or to register, call the Western Barley Growers Association office in Calgary at 291-3630.

(Cont'd)

SUMMER FARM EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED

The deadline for applications for the Summer Farm Employment program have been extended. Applications will be considered on a first-come first-served basis at Agriculture Employment Service offices. Any full time Alberta farmer is eligible to hire a student and receive assistance in paying his or her wages through the program. Up to half of the employee's monthly wage to a maximum of $330 for each month of the program is paid by the government. Jobs will run from July 3 to August 31, 1989. Student applicants must be at least 15 years of age. Farmers may not apply to employ family members. Application forms are available through Alberta Agriculture district offices or through local Agriculture Employment Service offices. The Summer Farm Employment program was introduced 18 years ago and has provided summer employment for over 31,000 students while helping farmers meet their seasonal labor requirements. For more information call Dave Manchak, manager of agriculture manpower programs, at 427-2405.

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Coming Agriculture Events

Canadian Institute of Food Science and Technology
32nd annual conference
Quebec City, Quebec.....June 4 -7
Dr. J. Amiot - (418)654-9053 - Quebec City

Canadian Association for Rural Studies Annual Meeting
Laval University
Quebec City, Quebec.....June 5 - 7
Fran Shaver - (514)689-5435 - Laval

Livestock Judging Clinic
Agriculture Pavilion, Stampede Park
Calgary.....June 5 - 9
Don Stewart - 261-0313 - Calgary

Annual Alberta Institute of Agrologists Conference
Lakeland College
Vermilion.....June 9 - 10
Jim Unterschultz - 853-8109 - Vermilion

Canadian Hereford Association annual meeting
Lloydminster.....June 9 - 11
Raymond Bygrove - 875-8307 - Lloydminster

International Conference Soil Quality in Semiarid Agriculture
Ramada Renaissance Hotel
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.....June 11 - 16
Hays Korveu - (306)966-6827 - Saskatoon

Alberta Pork Congress
Western Exposition
Red Deer.....June 13 - 15
Carol Voros - 340-5307 - Red Deer

Alberta Cowboy Poetry 2nd annual gathering
Pincher Creek Community Hall
Pincher Creek.....June 16 - 17
Anne Stevick - 239-0206 - Calgary

World Pork Expo
Springfield, Illnois.....June 18 - 20
Ernie Barnes - (515)223-2600 - Des Moines, Iowa

Livestock Industry Institute Congress
Lexington, Kentucky.....June 20 - 22
Mike Sweet - (816)891-8004 - Kansas City, Missouri

Western Canada Farm Progress Show
Exhibition Park
Regina, Saskatchewan.....June 21 - 24
Bill Perry - (306)757-2674- Regina

(Cont'd)

Coming Agriculture Events (cont'd)

Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association Feedlot School and Tour
Capri Centre
Red Deer.....June 22 - 23
Don A. Saynor - 250-2509 - Calgary

Interior Plantscape Conference (3rd Annual)
Olds College
Olds.....June 23 - 24
Geraldine Byrne - 556-8321 - Olds

Canadian Farm and Industrial Equipment Institute Convention
Minaki Lodge
Minaki, Ontario.....June 25 - 27
Institute office - (416)632-8483 - Burlington

Marketing Strategy Seminar
Western Barley Growers Association
Great West Inn
Red Deer.....June 28
Anne Schneider - 291-3630 - Calgary

Forage Equipment Field Day
Lakeland College
Vermilion.....June 29
Bob Brad - 853-8400 - Vermilion

Prairie Parkland Chapter--Society for Range Management
Annual meeting and summer tour
Battlefords Provincial Park, Saskatchewan.....July 5 - 6
Nancy Paul - (306)446-7646 - North Battleford

Breton Plots Field Day
Breton.....July 7
J.A. Robertson - 492-3242 - Edmonton

Canadian Galloway Association annual meeting
Heritage Inn
High River.....July 7 - 9
Bob Airth - 938-7543 - De Winton

Alberta Ram Test Station sale
Olds College
Olds.....July 8
Cathy Gallivan - 948-8517 - Airdrie

Canadian Seed Trade Association annual convention
Fantasyland Hotel
Edmonton.....July 9 - 13
Bill Leask - (613)829-9527 - Ottawa

(Cont'd)

Coming Agriculture Events (cont'd)

Provincial 4-H Club Week
Olds College
Olds.....July 10 - 16
Anita Styba - 427-2541 - Edmonton

Canadian Seed Growers' Association annual meeting
Victoria Inn
Brandon, Manitoba.....July 12 - 14
Don Webster - (204)945-3818 - Winnipeg

Inter-Association Conference
Chateau Airport Hotel
Calgary.....July 15 - 16
Don A. Saynor - 250-2509 - Calgary

Alberta Women's Week
Olds College
Olds.....July 17 - 10
Holly Pidzarko - 783-7072 - Ponoka; Bev Broks - 542-5368 - Drayton Valley

Growers' Day
Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre
Edmonton.....July 19
Michelle Danish - 472-6043 - Edmonton

Hort Week (25th Anniversary)
Olds College
Olds.....July 23 - 28
Geraldine Byrne - 556-8321 - Olds

University of Saskatchewan Hort Week (4th annual)
University of Saskatchewan campus
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.....July 24 - 28
Bruce Hobin - (306)966-5551 - Saskatoon

Berry Crop Research Field Day
Alberta Special Crops Horticulture Research Center
Brooks.....July 25
Lloyd Hausher - 362-3391 - Brooks

Alberta Dairy Congress
Leduc Curling Club
Leduc.....July 25 - 26
Iris Yanish - 986-8108 - Leduc

Chinook Applied Research Association/Agricultural Service Board
Summer tour and 10th anniversary open house
CARA Centre
Oyen.....July 26
Dianne Westerlund - 664-3777 - Oyen

(Cont'd)

Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Medicine Hat Exhibition and Stampede
Exhibition grounds
Medicine Hat.....July 27 - 29
Exhibition office - 526-3979 - Medicine Hat

Southern Alberta agriculture and irrigation tour
(Pre-Soil Water Conservation Society conference, see below)
Lethbridge, Taber and Coledale districts.....July 29
John Calpas - 320-3311; Brent Patterson - 381-5880 - Lethbridge

Soil and Water Conservation Society annual conference
Convention Centre
Edmonton.....July 30 - August 2
John Hermans or John Toogood - 422-4385 - Edmonton

Potato Research Field Day
Alberta Special Crops and Horticulture Research Center
Brooks.....August 2
Joyce Clark - 362-3391 - Brooks

Crops Field Day
Alberta Environmental Centre
Vegreville.....August 3
Dr. Prem Kharbanda - 632-6761 (ext.283) - Vegreville

Smoky River Agricultural Fair
Smoky River Fairgrounds
Donnelly.....August 4 - 5
Rita Therriault - 925-3913 - Donnelly

Pembina Forage Association Cow/calf pasture tour
Westlock.....August 9
Luanne Berjian - 349-4546 - Westlock

International Society of Arboriculture
St. Charles, Illinois.....August 13 - 16
Brendan Casement - 472-6043 - Edmonton

75th Anniversary Westlock and District Agricultural Fair
Mountie Park
Westlock.....August 17 - 20
Earl Brown - 961-2457 - Vimy; Bob Jones - 349-2780 - Westlock

Annual open house and field day
Alberta Special Crops and Horticulture Research Center
Brooks.....August 18
Joyce Clark - 362-3391 - Brooks

Western Nursery Growers' group tour
Edmonton area.....August 24 - 25
Doug Berggren - 224-3544 - Bowden; Harold Voogd - 472-6103 - Edmonton

(Cont'd)

Coming agricultural events (cont'd)

Reclamation: A Global Perspective
American Society for Surface Mining and Reclamation/Canadian Land Reclamation Association joint meeting
Convention Centre
Calgary.....August 28 - 31
Chris Powter - 427-4147 - Edmonton

International Society of Arboriculture
Prairie Chapter meeting
Regina.....September 10 - 13
Brendan Casement - 472-6043 - Edmonton

10th Western Nutrition Conference
Saskatoon Inn
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.....September 13 - 14
Bruce Hobin - (306)966-5551 - Saskatoon

Professional Plant Growers Association
22nd International Conference and 10th trade show
Cincinnati Exposition Centre
Cincinnati, Ohio.....October 1 - 5
PPGA office - (517)694-7700 - Lansing

14th Annual Poulty Servicemens' Workshop
Chateau Lake Louise
Lake Louise.....October 3 - 5
Rod Chernos - 948-8533 - Airdrie

Soil and Water Short Courses (for Agricultural Fieldmen)
Olds College
Olds.....(three one week courses beginning).October 16
Doug Peters - 556-8321 - Olds; Tim Deitzler - 230-1401 - M.D. of Rockyview

National Outstanding Young Farmers Program (10th Anniversary)
Westin Hotel and Stampede Grounds
Calgary.....October 20 - 23
Maxine Strand - 261-0313 - Calgary

Alberta Horticultural Congress (3rd annual)
Coast Terrace and Convention Inn Hotel
Edmonton.....November 2 - 4
Dietrich Kuhlmann - 475-7500 - Edmonton

Seed Technology Workshop
Olds College
Olds.....November 14 - 15
Jennifer O'Halloran - 556-8321 - Olds; Bill Witbeck - 782-4641 - Lacombe

(Cont'd)

Coming agricultural events (cont'd)

Alberta Women In Support of Agriculture Convention
Sheraton Hotel
Calgary.....November 16 - 17
Elaine Degg - 936-5991 - Langdon

Maritime Pork Conference
Colliseum
Moncton, New Brunswick.....November 17 - 18
Mario Maillet -(506)739-9545 - Edmundston

Alberta Cow Calf Association Convention (6th annual)
Cedar Park Inn
Edmonton.....November 24
Alban Bugei - 724-2296 - Elk Point

Canadian Dehydrators Conference
Fanatasyland Hotel
Edmonton.....November 20 - 22
Jerome Martin - 492-3116 - Edmonton

Canadian Western Agribition
Exhibition Grounds
Regina, Saskatchewan.....November 25 - December 1
Mark Allan - (306)565-0565 - Regina

Alberta Sheep Symposium
Kananaskis Lodge
Kananskis Village.....November 30 - December 2
Wray Whitmore - 427-5083 - Edmonton

1990 Events

Western Canadian Wheat Growers (20th Anniversary) annual meeting
Regina.....January 4 - 6, 1990
WCWG - (306)586-5866 - Regina

Alberta Horse Breeders and Owners Conference
Capri Centre
Red Deer.....January 12 - 14
Les Burwash - 297-6650 - Calgary

1st Joint Convention--Farm Equipment Dealers' Association of Alberta and British Columbia and the Saskatchewan Manitoba Implement Dealers Associaton
Fantasyland Hotel
Edmonton.....January 18 - 20
William J. Lipsey - 250-7581 - Calgary

(Cont'd)

Coming agricultural events (cont'd)

Alberta Canola Growers Association
Edmonton Inn
Edmonton.....January 24 - 26
Albert Schatzke - 454-0844 - Edmonton

Banff Pork Seminar
Banff Springs Hotel
Banff.....January 27 - 30
Jerome Martin - 492-3116 - Edmonton

Alberta Branch, Canadian Seed Growers' Association
Banff Park Lodge
Banff.....January 31 - February 1
Bill Witbeck - 782-4641 - Lacombe

Western Barley Growers 13th Annual Convention and Trade Fair
Kananaskis Lodge
Kananaskis Village.....February 14 - 16
Anne Schneider - 291-3630 - Calgary

Prairie Implement Manufacturers Association 20th annual convention
Skyline Hotel
Calgary.....February 22 - 24
Randy Poole - (306)522-2710 - Regina

Managing Agricultural Technology for Profit
Kananaskis Lodge
Kananaskis Village.....March 4 - 7
Trish Stiles - 556-4276 - Olds

Farming for the Future Conference
Lethbridge Lodge
Lethbridge.....March 14 - 15
Sharon Abbott - 427-1956 - Edmonton

Pulse Growers Annual Meeting
Banff Park Lodge
Banff.....March 22 - 23
Blair Roth - 381-5127 - Lethbridge

Western Canadian Dairy Seminar
Kananaskis Lodge
Kananaskis Village.....March 27 - 30
Jerome Martin - 492-3116 - Edmonton

International Agricultural Exchange Associaton (IAEA) Reunion
Olds College
Olds.....June 17 - 24
Bernice Luce - 783-2085 - Ponoka

(Cont'd)

Coming agricultural events (cont'd)

International Air Seeder Technology Conference
Regina, Saskatchewan.....June 19 - 21
Bruce Hobin - (306)966-5551 - Saskatoon

Conferderacion Interamericana de Ganderos (C.I.A.G.A.)
Hosted by Alberta Canada All Breeds Association (ACABA)
Convention Centre
Calgary.....July 13 - 17
Post conference tour.....July 18 - 26
Norma Dunn - 282-8181 - Calgary

Coming Agricultural Events

1. Do you know of any provincial (Alberta), national or international agricultural meetings, conferences or conventions coming in October, November, or December or in 1990? Are there any events omitted in the attached list?
   Please state the name of the event.

2. What are the dates?

3. Where is the event being held? Include city or town; hotel and convention centre if known.

4. Please give the name, city or town, and phone number of a contact person for each event listed.

5. This form has been completed by (organization):

Please return this form by August 25, 1989 to:

Agri-News Editor
Information Services Division
J.G. O'Donoghue Building
7000 - 113 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5T6

(Coming Agricultural Events is published four times a year in Agri-News. The next edition will be printed September 4, 1989.)

AGRI-NEWS

June 12, 1989

For immediate release

JUN 26 1989

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Information Services Division

June 12, 1989
For immediate release

Agriculture ministers announce division of responsibilities

Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley and Associate Agriculture Minister Shirley McClellan have announced the new division of ministerial responsibilities in Alberta Agriculture.

The Minister of Agriculture will, as always, maintain final accountability for Alberta Agriculture. Responsibility for the department's various divisions and for the councils, commissions, institutes and other bodies attached to the agriculture ministry will be divided between Mr. Isley and Mrs. McClellan.

Mr. Isley will be responsible for the operations of the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation, the Office of the Farmers' Advocate of Alberta, the Alberta Grain Commission, the Alberta Dairy Control Board and the Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council.

His areas of departmental responsibility will include the plant industry, animal industry, animal health, economic services, finance and administration, marketing services, central program support, personnel services, systems development and information services divisions. In addition, he will be responsible for the department's planning and trade policy secretariats.

The new separation of Alberta Agriculture responsibilities reflects an expanded role for the department's Associate Minister.

Mrs. McClellan will be responsible for the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation, the Irrigation Council, the Alberta Agricultural Research Institute, the Agricultural Research Council and the Surface Rights Board.

Her departmental responsibilities will include the research division, the irrigation secretariat, the irrigation and resource management division and the rural services division, which includes agricultural and community services, education, engineering, home economics and 4-H branches. The Associate Minister will also be responsible for Alberta Agriculture's six regional offices.

(Cont'd)

Agriculture ministers announce division of responsibilities (cont'd)

"Mrs. McClellan and I have arrived at a division of responsibilities that is very efficient and that reflects at the same time our individual fields of interest and ability. I know we will work well together on behalf of the farm families of Alberta," says Mr. Isley.

"I am delighted with the new definition of ministerial responsibilities, and I have no doubt that we can now serve the province's agricultural community even more effectively than in the past," says Mrs. McClellan.

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Contact: Brad Klak
427-2137

Doris Armitage
422-9156

June 12, 1989
For immediate release

May snows improve moisture picture

While snowy weather dampened some spirits over the holiday long weekend last month, the precipitation gave Alberta's farmers a reason to celebrate.

"Conditions are looking better," says Peter Dzikowski, Alberta Agriculture's weather resource specialist. "Northern regions got the precipitation before the long weekend and southern regions had similar conditions the next week."

The precipitation ranged from snow to rain. In the north, it was heaviest around Edmonton and north and west of the capital. Totals ranged between 50 and 70 mm, he says. Whitecourt, for example, got about 73 mm during that period. The Peace Region received between 30 and 50 mm.

Most of southern Alberta got the mixed snow and rain from May 24 through 28. Dzikowski says the precipitation fell south of a line between Calgary and Coronation. Most of that area got between 30 and 40 mm, although the range for the area went from 20 mm to 70mm. The wettest areas were Cardston and Pincher Creek.

"This province wide precipitation certainly is a basis for optimism as far as crops are concerned, especially in southern and eastern regions that had been very dry.

"An eastern region extending from north of Medicine Hat to the Wainwright area has been helped, but it still hasn't turned the corner to a good moisture situation.

"In the short term the moisture will be beneficial, but the growing season will need near or above normal and timely precipitation especially in the south. The timing is as important as how much precipitation the crop receives," he says.

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Contact: Peter Dzikowski
422-4385

June 12, 1989
For immediate release

CARTT conservation projects start in north east

Three Agricultural Service Boards in north eastern Alberta have initiated conservation demonstration and technology transfer projects with assistance from the Canada/Alberta Agreement on Soil, Water and Cropping Research and Technology Transfer (CARTT).

"Three separate demonstrations are part of the Lac La Biche Agricultural Service Board's project of soil improvement practices in that county," says Carol Bettac. Bettac is the CARTT area B co-ordinator. The program divides the province into three administrative areas. Area B includes the north central, north east and north west agriculture regions running from Red Deer north to the Barrhead/Athabasca/Lac La Biche districts and from the Saskatchewan border west to the foothills.

"The first demonstration plot will compare yields, soil moisture, fertility and tilth using various legumes as green manure," she says. Five acre plots will be underseeded with red clover and sweet clover this spring. Barley or oats will be used as the cover crop. The rest of the field will be seeded with the cereal crop and serve as a check. Two annual legumes--peas and lentils--will be seeded in 1990.

Reduced fall tillage is the focus of the second project. The plot will be seeded with a cereal this year. In the fall, the field will be split by two different treatments. One part will have conventional tillage and the other reduced tillage using herbicides. Weed populations, soil moisture and soil fertility will be monitored in the fall of 1989 and spring of 1990. Crop yields will be compared in 1990.

A chem-fallow demonstration will be on the third site. Chem-fallow will be compared to conventional summerfallow on a fallow field through 1989. The use of herbicides will be compared to conventional tillage for weed control. Weed populations, soil moisture and fertility will be monitored and crop yield data collected next year.

Reduced tillage is the focus of the County of St. Paul Agricultural Service Board demonstration.

(Cont'd)

CARTT conservation projects start in north east (cont'd)

"A reduction in the number of tillage operations protects soil from erosion by maintaining residue on the soil surface," says Bettac. "The St. Paul ASB hopes to show how reduced tillage in summerfallow will provide adequate weed control and yet sustain economic crop production in subsequent years."

There will be two ten acre reduced tillage strips and two ten acre conventional tillage strips at this site. The conventional tillage plots will be worked traditionally, while the reduced tillage plots will be tilled only every second time.

Fertility, moisture and weed growth will be monitored on all of the sites and crop data will be collected in 1990. "The project will be repeated on similar land in subsequent years to provide for replication and additional data," she says.

Alternatives to conventional summerfallow will be compared and assessed through demonstrating conservation fallow systems in the County of Lamont.

"Conventional fallow, chem-fallow using only herbicides, a combination of tillage and herbicides, and extended crop rotations are all part of the project," says Bettac.

Soil moisture, fertility, tilth and weed populations will be monitored the following year. Crop germination, maturity and yield will also be compared.

"The data gathered from these projects will allow CARTT to make economic evaluations of the conservation techniques demonstrated in the three counties," she says.

CARTT's objective is to develop and transfer appropriate conservation tillage and cropping technology which will minimize soil degradation and sustain economic crop production.

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Contact: Carol Bettac
679-1210

June 12, 1989
For immediate release

Haying rates likely close to last year's

Recent moisture has not only helped the crop picture, but has turned thoughts to the summer hay crop.

"This year's custom haying rates will probably be in the same ball park as last year's rates," says Garth Nickorick, an Alberta Agriculture farm management economist with the farm business management branch in Olds.

An annual survey is conducted by Alberta Agriculture during the July-August haying season. In 1988, mowing and conditioning hay ranged between $6 and $10 per acre, says Nickorick. Custom operators also charged on the basis of final product, a rate of between ten and 15 cents per small square bale, he says.

Baling small square bales ranged between 30 and 40 cents per bale says Nickorick. Hauling rates for short distances, a mile or less, fell between 20 and 30 cents per bale. This figure includes stacking.

Custom operators with equipment for large round bales charged between $5 and $6.50 per bale for baling. Stacking and hauling the big round bales ranged between one and two dollars per bale, he says.

"These figures were the most commonly quoted ones from our 1988 survey," says Nickorick.

For more information about custom rates for haying and other farm services, contact Nickorick at 556-4247.

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Contact: Garth Nickorick
556-4247

June 12, 1989
For immediate release

Annual ram test station sale July 8

The 15th annual edition of the Alberta ram test station sale July 8 at Olds College promises to be the biggest and best, says Alberta Agriculture's sheep specialist.

"We've tested half again as many rams as last year, which had been the largest sale we'd had," says Cathy Gallivan. She estimates this year more than 100 performance tested rams will be on the auction block.

Gallivan says interest from both purebred and commercial producers have contributed to the growth of the number of rams tested and sold. "Purebred breeders are becoming more interested in performance testing. More commercial producers are indicating that they want quality tested rams for their operations," she says.

All rams sold will be above the station average for average daily gain and must pass a rigorous physical cull for teeth, testicles and legs to be in the sale.

Major breeds will be represented at the sale. These include Suffolk, Hampshire, Dorset, Polypay, Rambouillet, Columbia and Romney says Gallivan.

Prospective buyers can begin viewing the rams at 10 a.m. The sale is scheduled to start at 1 p.m.

For more information about the sale contact Gallivan at 948-8517.

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Contact: Cathy Gallivan
948-8517

June 12, 1989
For immediate release

New format for draft horse improvement program

The structure of the one-day Alberta Draft Horse Improvement Program has been changed allowing a break for competitors and an opportunity to attract more spectators.

"Through the morning and early afternoon, we'll be running the confirmation evaluation classes. The performance driving classes will begin at 5 p.m. The break will give exhibitors and judges time to relax. We also hope it will give more people a chance to come out and see the horses perform," says Bob Coleman, of Alberta Agriculture's horse industry branch.

The Draft Horse Improvement Program rotates between Edmonton's Klondike Days and the Calgary Stampede. This year's event is July 6 as part of the Stampede activities. Percheron's will be first in the exhibition ring starting at 8 a.m.

Coleman says the three judges at the show represent all the breeds. Vaughn Toll and Robert Black have Clydesdale and Percheron backgrounds respectively. Both men are from Ontario. Dr. Lisa Hale, from Lovington, Illinois, brings a Belgian breed background as well as her veterinarian experience to her judge's role.

All horses shown at the Draft Horse Improvement Program must have been born in Alberta from a mare owned by an Alberta resident at the time of foaling. A foal born out-of-province is eligible for classes if the mare was temporarily out-of-province to be bred when she foaled. June 30 is the entry deadline.

For more information about the program's rules and regulations, or for entry forms, contact the horse industry branch in Calgary at 205, 2003 McKnight Blvd. N.E., Calgary, T2E 6L2, telephone 297-6650 or in Edmonton at 905, O.S. Longman Building, 6909-116 St., Edmonton, T6H 4P2, telephone 427-8905.

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Contact: Bob Coleman
436-9150

Les Burwash
297-6650

June 12, 1989
For immediate release

Processing and marketing agreement program fully subscribed

The federal and Alberta governments have jointly announced effective immediately, no further applications will be accepted for funding from the Canada/Alberta Agricultural Processing and Marketing Agreement, a subsidiary agreement under the Canada/Alberta Economic and Regional Development Agreement.

Applications currently under review are expected to exhaust the funds remaining in the $50 million jointly funded agreement.

Since the agreement was signed in February, 1986, more than 300 projects have received assistance from the two governments. The APMA program has assisted a wide variety of processing initiatives undertaken by Alberta entrepreneurs contributing to building the value-added sector and diversification of the province's agricultural industry.

Both governments will examine options for joint support of agricultural processing and marketing initiatives within the current fiscal environment and the framework of the National Agricultural Strategy.

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Contact: Dr. Jim Wiebe
427-4287

June 12, 1989
For immediate release

Viral diseases may threaten dugout fish sources

Farmers who stock their dugouts with fish should be aware of two viral diseases that threaten Alberta fish says an Alberta Agriculture pathologist.

The two diseases, viral hemorrhagic septicemia and infectious pancreatic necrosis, have recently been reported and identified says Dr. James Hanson. "Viral hemorrhagic septicemic was identified in reproductive fluids obtained by salmon returning from the ocean to their fish hatchery sites in Washington state. Infectious pancreatic necrosis has been identified in rainbow trout at the Sam Livingston Hatchery in Calgary."

Hanson says while precautions have been taken to keep infected fish from entering Alberta or leaving the Calgary hatchery, farmers should still be on the lookout for signs of either disease. "It's very important that natural wild trout populations not be infected," he says.

Viral hemorrhagic septicemica, perhaps the most serious viral disease of European rainbow trout and Pacific salmon, hadn't been identified in North American fish before this spring. "Because of its significance, Alberta borders were closed to movement of fish and fish eggs from potentially infected sources in the United States and British Columbia. Examinations and recertification of facilities for import into Alberta are occurring. A number of sources of fingerlings have been identified," he says.

This virus causes sudden severe losses in all age groups of fish, but particularly in those more than 5 cm long. Typical signs of virus are hemorrhages (bleeding) on the gills, around the eyes and in body organs and muscle. Fish that don't die, suddenly appear to be darker in color and may have bulging eyes. It tends to be a cold water disease with few outbreaks once the water exceeds 8°C.

(Cont'd)

Viral diseases may threaten dugout fish sources (cont'd)

The infectious pancreatic necrosis virus has been present in North America, including Alberta, for a number of years. "It appears to be established in the Athabasca River drainage system, and might be present naturally in lake trout populations of this river system," says Dr. Hanson.

Unlike viral hemorrhagic septicemia, this disease usually causes the highest mortality in fry in the early feeding stage. If one of the stronger disease producing strains of the virus is involved, there will be sudden losses occurring in the young fry during the first two months after coming on to feed.

Affected fry may show slow spiral swimming movements and be darker in color. Occasionally these fish have swollen bellies and bulging eyes. It's often difficult to see tissue damage in affected fish, but occasionally some small hemorrhages may be found in the stomach region. The stomach and intestine may also contain a whitish mucus and very little else.

Adult fish may carry infectious pancreatic necrosis virus in their gonads without showing any evidence of disease. "The virus can be shed with reproductive fluids. This may be the common way that the disease is spread. It can apparently also be spread in infected fish droppings," he says.

The infectious pancreatic necrosis virus isolated from the Sam Livingston Hatchery appears to not to cause severe mortality, but Alberta Fish and Wildlife is being cautious with how they dispose of fish from the hatchery, he says.

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Contact: Dr. James Hanson
436-8643

June 12, 1989
For immediate release

Agri-News Briefs

FORAGE FIELD DAY AT LAKELAND COLLEGE JUNE 29

Producers can see the latest developments in hay and silage harvesting equipment and related products and services at Lakeland College in Vermilion on June 29. Machinery displays, technical seminars and field demonstrations are part of the activities at the third annual field day co-sponsored by Alberta Agriculture, the Vermilion Agricultural Society and local implement dealers. Displays are open at 9 a.m. through to 6 p.m. Alberta Agriculture's display will feature forage production information and farm safety. Technical seminars start at 11 a.m. Rick Corbett, an Alberta Agriculture dairy nutritionist, will discuss "putting up quality silage". Mechanical conditioning to maintain hay quality is another seminar topic. Field demonstrations start at 10 a.m. with silage equipment. Haying equipment demonstrations run in the afternoon. A heritage haying demonstration takes the spotlight at 12:30. There is no admission charge. For more information contact Lakeland College in Vermilion at 853-8400.

CATTLE FEEDERS' ASSOCIATION TOUR AND SCHOOL

The Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association is offering something new in 1989 for people interested in the cattle feedlot industry. A two-day package of tour and seminars has been designed to show research and practical applications of innovations in this part of the cattle industry. The tour and school is slated for June 22 and 23 in Red Deer and area. On day one, participants will visit four central Alberta feedlots and the Lacombe Agricultural Research Station beef production facilities. Day two features five information sessions covering the topics of: significances of proposed grading changes to the feedlot industry, profiting from ultrasound technology, tempering grain in Alberta

(Cont'd)

Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

CATTLE FEEDERS' ASSOCIATION TOUR AND SCHOOL (cont'd)

feedlots, financing cattle feeding in the U.S. and the ideal feedlot supplier. Registration is limited to the first 90 people to confirm their attendance. For more information about the tour and school contact the Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association office in Calgary at 250-2509.

PROVINCIAL HEIFER SHOW ENTRY DEADLINE

June 23 is the entry deadline for the annual provincial 4-H heifer show in Bashaw. The show and judging contest is scheduled for July 16 through 18. 4-H members with a heifer breeding projected are invited to take part in the three day program. For more information contact regional 4-H specialist or the 4-H branch in Edmonton at 427-2541.

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AGRI-NEWS

JUN 20 1989

June 19, 1989

For immediate release

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Information Services Division

June 19, 1989
For immediate release

"Alberta Made" new look in product identification

Expect to see a new logo appearing on grocery store shelves and on Alberta food and beverages proclaiming products from Alberta as "Alberta Made".

The "Alberta Made" logo, a stylized letter A and Alberta rose with the Alberta made wording, has recently replaced "Better Buy Alberta" as the symbol to identify Alberta produced food and beverage products.

"The 'Better Buy Alberta' slogan has been useful and well recognized in Alberta for a number of years. The Alberta Food Processors Association started evaluating it last year and eventually the new slogan was developed," says Ron Pettitt of Alberta Agriculture's agri-food and processing development branch.

One of the considerations in the new logo and slogan was its impact when it appears on goods sold out-of-province says Pettitt. "The new 'Alberta Made' slogan is a strong statement that will both create recognition and generate pride. It identifies where the product is from and is a symbol of quality."

While the Alberta Food Processors Association has a growing list of members--150 food processors plus another 50 associate members--a small percentage of the members were using the Better Buy logo on their products. The association says it expects more members will use the new slogan and logo.

Alberta Agriculture provides funding to the Alberta Food Processing Association to assist in its awareness campaigns. Currently funding is in year two of a three year $3 million program known as the Opportunity is Now project (OPIN). OPIN followed on the heels of highly successful Strategy to Increase Market Share project (SIMS).

(Cont'd)

"Alberta made" new look in product identification (cont'd)

The new slogan is just one of number of new marketing ideas being used. June has been a promotional month to make Alberta consumers aware of Alberta food and beverage products. Instead of Better Buy Alberta month, this June is "June Taste Bud Bloom".

A Festival of Fine Chefs launched June Taste Bud Bloom. Organized by the Alberta Food Processors Association, the festival featured apprentice chefs from 20 establishments who prepared a four course meal from all Alberta grown products. Over 500 guests from industry, government, media and the general public attended the festival dinner June 7 in Edmonton.

Sales of Alberta processed beverages totalled more than $4.7 billion last year. "Through efforts of the agri-food industry with some support from the government, Alberta processors have developed a very vigorous industry. Processing sales figures are now greater than sales of primary productions. That shows how much we've diversified.

"The Alberta food industry is a growing and dynamic industry, characterized by the entrepreneurial spirit of many of its members," says Pettitt.

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Contact: Ron Pettitt
427-7325

June 19, 1989
For immediate release

June good time to seed lawns

June is usually the best time of the year to seed lawns and an Alberta Agriculture specialist has some advice on how to prepare, seed and care for a new lawn.

"This month is often the best time to seed lawns because the soil is warm and there is usually plenty of rain. However, lawns can be seeded up to September 1," says Pam North, information officer at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre in Edmonton.

Seeding starts with preparing the seed bed she says. "If possible have 15 cm (six inches) of good quality top soil. A 2.5 cm (one inch) layer of peat moss may be incorporated into the topsoil. Don't over apply the peat moss or you'll have a spongy lawn."

Weed control is also important, especially control of grassy weeds. They should be controlled before seeding takes place. North says to cultivate or use herbicides for control.

"Ideally, a soil test should be taken to determine the type and amount of fertilizer to use when seeding. A high phosphorous type fertilizer, for example 11-55-0 or 11-51-0, are usually good bets," she says. The fertilizer can be incorporated into the soil with a rake to a depth of 5 cm (two inches).

The soil surface should be packed and leveled to make it free of hills or depressions. When grading, the topsoil should be level with the sidewalk.

What type of seed mix to use for a lawn depends on whether the area will be sunny or shady. "For an area with a lot of sun, the mix should be 70 to 80 per cent Kentucky bluegrass and 20 to 30 per cent creeping red fescue. Shady locations are better with more of the creeping red fescue, a mix of 50 to 70 per cent, with 30 to 50 per cent Kentucky bluegrass," she says.

Seed can be spread by hand or with a mechanical spreader. To ensure even coverage, sow half the seed over the lawn in one direction and then spread the rest from a different direction, she says.

(Cont'd)

June good time to seed lawns (cont'd)

After seeding, rake lightly to cover the seed. The soil must be kept moist until the seed has germinated. This may mean daily light waterings for three to four weeks.

A new lawn shouldn't have heavy traffic for about two months, she says. Once it grows 7.5 cm (three inches) tall, it should be cut back to 3.75 to 5 cm (one and half to two inches). Finally, she says, selective herbicides shouldn't be used until the lawn has been mown at least twice.

For more information about lawn care contact North at the Centre at 472-6043.

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Contact: Pam North
472-6043

June 19, 1989
For immediate release

Custom silaging rates survey results

Farmers who plan to use custom operators to put up their silage in 1989 may want to use an Alberta Agriculture survey of last year's custom silaging rates to help them budget.

The survey included costs for both the traditional silage pit and also the bagging method, says Garth Nickorick, a farm management economist with the farm business management branch in Olds.

Cutting silage ranged between $5 and $7 per acre or an hourly rate of between $35 and $40, he says.

To chop and haul silage to a pit, the cost ranged between $5.50 and $6.50 per tonne. Packing was an additional $1.50 to $3 per tonne or from $42 to $52 per hour.

Rates for chopping, hauling and bagging varied with the size of bag used to store the silage, he says. The rate also includes the price of the bag.

For an eight foot by 150 foot bag, the rate for chopping, hauling and bagging was $1300 to $1800. A rate of $2600 was charged for a nine foot by 200 foot bag and $3200 for a ten foot by 200 foot bag.

For more information about custom rates for silaging and other farm services, contact Nickorick in Olds at 556-4247.

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Contact: Garth Nickorick
556-4247

June 19, 1989
For immediate release

Aerial erosion survey a CARTT Peace region project

The Smoky Applied Research and Demonstration Association (SARDA) will be comparing conventional, minimum and zero tillage with funding assistance from the Canada/Alberta Agreement on Soil, Water and Cropping Research and Technology Transfer (CARTT).

Five sites in the Municipal District of Smoky River have been targeted for the project that will evaluate the three types of tillage. The plots, in the Falher, Donnelly and Girouxville areas, will be 20 to 40 acres.

"This size improves the relationship of the plots to field scale farming," says John Zylstra, CARTT area C co-ordinator. Area C includes the Peace region.

Wheat will be planted and harvested on the plots in 1989. SARDA plans to continue the project for at least five years.

"Most of the soils in the M.D. of Smoky River crust badly after intense rainfall and will erode severely from snow melt and rainfall runoff," says SARDA co-ordinator Rene Labbe. "We're happy to receive funding for projects that will show the benefits of increased plant residue on the soil surface."

A second project is an aerial survey of one township in the Falher area. The target is cultivated land during the spring snow melt and runoff period. SARDA will map soil erosion using both the aerial photos and municipal maps.

"We plan to use the map as an extension tool to increase awareness of the need for soil conservation practices," says Labbe.

(Cont'd)

Aerial erosion survey a CARTT Peace region project (cont'd)

CARTT's objective is to develop and transfer appropriate conservation tillage and cropping technology which will minimize soil degradation and sustain economic crop production.

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Contact: John Zylstra
835-2291

Rene Labbe
837-2211

June 19, 1989
For immediate release

Be on lookout for spruce pests

Spruce trees should be checked regularly for signs of common pests so they can be controlled before any major damage is done says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist.

These common pests are spider mites, cooley gall aphids and yellow headed spruce sawflies, says Pam North, information officer at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre in Edmonton.

"Damage from spider mites can first be noticed in the centre of the tree, then it works its way out. Needles begin to lose their color, turn yellowish-brown, then brown and finally dry up," she says.

Spider mites are very difficult to see with the naked eye. One way to see if they have infested a spruce tree is to hold a piece of white paper under a branch and shake it. If there are mites, they will fall on the paper and can be seen moving around. The mites are a reddish brown or reddish yellow color with two black spots on their backs.

A very fine webbing between the needles and dusty looking needles also indicate that spider mites are present, she adds.

Washing trees off with a strong jet of water from a hose will break up webs and wash mites off. "This requires good pressure and working the spray towards the centre of the tree and on the undersides of the branches," says North.

There are a number of registered insecticides that can also be used to combat spider mites. These include dicofol (kethane), diazinon, and malathion. Trees should be sprayed two or three times at an interval of seven to ten days.

"We're also getting a lot of calls at the Centre about cooley gall aphids," says North. New growth on trees develops cone shaped galls that resemble a pineapple. At first the galls are green, but later turn reddish purple and dry out. These galls vary in size but are usually about 5 cm (two inches) long, she says.

(Cont'd)

Be on lookout for spruce pests (cont'd)

Another indication these aphids are present on trees is white cottony specks appearing in the spring and throughout the summer.

The aphids feed inside the galls but can leave the galls in mid-summer and feed on the needles.

"Unfortunately once you see the galls, it's really too late to control them because the aphids are feeding inside. It there are only a few, hand pick the galls from the tree," advises North.

"When you see the white specks you can spray with cabaryl or malathion. Repeat the application once or twice at seven to ten day intervals."

In mid-June, yellow headed spruce sawflies make an appearance. This insect does its damage while still in the larval or caterpillar stage. When young they have a yellowish green body and an orange-yellow head. As they mature, they become dark green with a grey green stripe down each side of their body. They reach about 5 cm (two inches) in length.

"Because of their color they blend in with the needles, so you have to look closely to see them," says North.

The sawfly damages spruce by eating the needles and will leave trees looking quite ragged and brown. North says two to three years of moderate defoliation are enough the kill the tree, so immediate control is necessary.

"Again, if only a few of the larvae are present, hand pick them from the tree. If there are a lot, apply malathion when you first see the insects. Reapply in two to three weeks if necessary. For malathion to be most effective temperatures should be above 20°C," she says.

For more information about care of spruce trees, contact North at the Centre at 472-6043.

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Contact: Pam North
472-6043

June 19, 1989
For immediate release

Watch vegetables for root maggots

If some of your cole crops are wilting and their outer leaves are yellowing, you may have to combat root maggots says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist.

"If the condition isn't treated, the plants may turn brown, dry up and die," says Pam North, information officer at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre.

Root maggots, as adults, are greyish colored flies that resemble house flies. The flies lay eggs in the soil. They hatch into small white legless larvae that can reach one cm in length. These root maggots particularly attack cole crops. These include broccoli, cabbage, radishes and turnips. Another type of root maggot attacks onions.

While wilting and yellowing leaves are a first sign of root maggots, digging up an infested plant will also show few feeder roots. "You can also see tunnelling into the edible portion of the root," North adds.

Liquid diazinon as a soil drench is one way to control root maggots, she says. "Directions on the label will tell you how to mix it with water. It then should be applied around the base of each plant. This soil drench should be repeated once every seven to ten days until the end of June and from late July to mid-August."

North also says it's important when applying chemicals to root crops to read the label and find out the pre-harvest interval. "That's the number of days required from application until harvest," she says.

There are also several non-chemical ways to control root maggots she says. "Some people use wood ash. This is usually spread over the soil around the plants. Barrier methods may be used when planting. For example, planting into an aluminium foil mulch or using tar paper discs. Both methods prevent the adult fly from laying eggs in the soil."

(Cont'd)

Watch vegetables for root maggots (cont'd)

Row covers and garden blankets can also be used when planting to prevent flies from laying their eggs in the soil.

For more information about root maggots, contact North at the Centre at 472-6043.

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Contact: Pam North
472-6043

June 19, 1989
For immediate release

4-H members attend Indiana conferences

Two Alberta 4-H members left yesterday to represent their province at two 4-H conferences during an 11 day trip to Indiana.

The delegates, Patrick Manderson, of Ryley, and Claudelle Seguin, of Westlock, were chosen to represent Alberta at the Provincial 4-H Selections program last month.

Manderson and Seguin will first join Indiana 4-H members at the State 4-H Junior Leader program. This conference puts its focus on personal development, leadership, relationships and communication skills.

Following this conference, they will spend a weekend with individual host families and have an opportunity to see the agricultural industry and lifestyles of Indiana farm families.

Their last few days in Indiana will be spent at the State 4-H Round Up at Purdue University in Lafayette. This conference focuses on career choices and stresses 4-H involvement. More than 5,000 4-H members from across the state participate at the Round Up.

Sponsor of the trip is the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. It also hosted a send-off banquet in Calgary before the delegates left Alberta.

"Through this trip Patrick and Claudelle have an opportunity to learn more about 4-H, agricultural and themselves. They'll bring many new ideas and experiences home with them," says Marguerite Stark, provincial 4-H camping and exchange specialist.

Trips are awarded at Selections to 4-H members based on their participation and achievements both in 4-H and the community, as well as leadership and interpersonal skills.

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Contact: Marguerite Stark
948-8510

Laura-Jeanne Lehr
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June 19, 1989
For immediate release

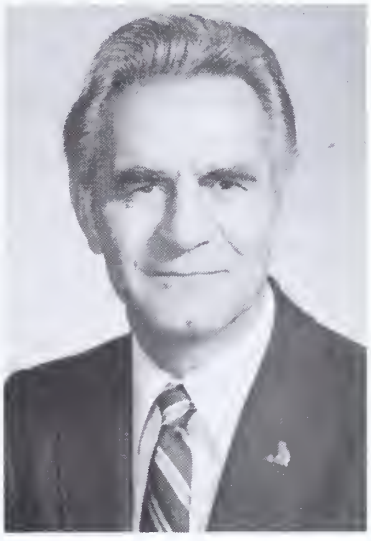
Retired department branch head honored

A former Alberta Agriculture pest control branch head has been honored as "distinguished agrologist" by the Alberta Institute of Agrologists.

Joseph Gurba retired from his more than 30-year long career with Alberta Agriculture in 1983. He began his career with the department between university semesters. He started as a weed inspector in the summer of 1947 while he was completing his BSc. in agriculture at the University of Alberta.

After graduating in 1950, he spent four years working as a district agriculturist, first in Vegreville and then in Myrnam.

He then moved to Edmonton to work as assistant supervisor of the fledgling rat control program. He later became supervisor of the program. Eventually, he took on the position of head of the pest control branch. He held that job for 16 years, from 1967 until he retired.



JOSEPH B. GURBA

The Alberta Institute of Agrologists (AIA) honored Gurba for his role in the many innovative and noteworthy programs he was involved with in his more than three decades of public service. These programs include control of rats, rabies, other problem wildlife management and Dutch elm disease. He also promoted proper and safe use of pesticides.

As branch head, Gurba was involved in developing new and updated legislation, research and development of applied technology and using interagency committees for advice, understanding and support.

(Cont'd)

Retired department branch head honored (cont'd)

In citing Gurba for the award, the AIA attributed his success to his leadership, dedication to a cause and problem solving philosophy. "Above all else, he is reliable and a tremendous innovator," says Bill Lobay, a long time colleague of Gurba and one of the people who nominated him for the award.

"He was an advocate of a team approach requiring involvement and a co-ordinated effort from federal, provincial and municipal governments and other interested agencies.

"He believed in the "triple E" theory of problem solving, that the right combination of engineering, education and enforcement is necessary for long term success. He managed to convince municipalities and farmers to control rats on their own premises. Laws and available technology have not succeeded elsewhere," adds Lobay.

His resume of professional involvements includes provincial, national and international organizations and committees in the field of agriculture and pest management. Gurba also has been, and remains, involved with many community organizations.

Gurba has remained active in agriculture since his retirement from the department. He has maintained an active interest in the family farm. As a volunteer consultant with the Canadian Executive Service Organization (CESO), he has shared his agrology experience in Columbia and Costa Rica, as well as with native Canadian groups. CESO provides assistance to companies in the Third World and to native enterprizes in Canada.

He was born at Waskatenau and grew up on his family's mixed farm. Before attending University of Alberta, he served in the Royal Canadian Air Force from 1943 through 1945.

The distinguished agrologist award is presented by the AIA for professional distinction and outstanding accomplishment in the agricultural industry. The presentation was made June 9 in Vermilion at the annual meeting of the Alberta Institute of Agrologists.

AGRI-NEWS

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June 26, 1989

For immediate release

This Week

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Information Services Division

June 26, 1989
For immediate release

Agricultural exports to U.S. more than a half billion dollars in 1988

The value of Alberta's agricultural exports to the province's largest trading partner increased by 36 per cent last year to almost $597 million, says Alberta Agriculture's senior trade director for the Americas.

"We've seen tremendous growth in our export trade with the United States during this decade. In 1978, the value of our agricultural export trade was just under $100 million. Last year we went over the half billion dollar mark for the first time," says Arnold de Leeuw.

Alberta's success in the American marketplace stems from a drive within the agricultural and agri-foods industry to aggressively find new markets. Alberta Agriculture has been a partner in the trade growth. A five-member team of marketing specialists concentrate on market opportunities and promoting Alberta commodities and processed foods to retailers, wholesales and brokers in all 50 states.

Last year's record export sales total saw big gains in live cattle and hog sales as well as canola oil. Favorable feeding economics resulted an increased volume of cattle, some 114,000 head, moving south of the border in 1988. The gain in value was $113 million.

More live hogs were sold to the United States in 1988, as well. The increase, from just over 98,000 head in 1987 to over 430,000 head in 1988, was due in most part to labour problems at Fletchers, says de Leeuw.

Health conscious American consumers have been a boon for canola oil exports. "Canola oil has been recognized by some prestigious American health organizations as more healthy with its high unsaturated fat levels. That's been good news for Alberta producers and crushers whose products have been in greater demand," he says. The estimated value of canola oil sales more than tripled from $8.1 million in 1987 to just over $28 million in 1988.

(Cont'd)

Agricultural exports to the U.S. more than half a billion dollars in 1988 (cont'd)

Oats, touted as a commodity with major growth potential, has seen steady growth in the last few years. Sales in 1988 increased by $12 million to $31.3 million for unmilled oats.

Value-added products, which diversify Alberta's agricultural economy, have made steady progress in American markets. "Beef, pork, processed meats, canola oil, flour and bakery products are a few of the best achievers," says de Leeuw.

While speciality foods and products haven't yet put as big numbers up, Alberta companies are finding and filling niche markets says Gaylene Thomson, a trade director for the western U.S.

"Two breweries sell their products in California. Honey has had a good market throughout the west coast, and now Alberta creamed honey is available there, too. Those are just two examples," says Thomson.

Alberta second largest trading partner is Japan. In 1988 the estimated value of Alberta exports to Japan was $471 million, a $117 million increase from the previous year.

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Contact: Arnold de Leeuw
427-4241

Gaylene Thomson
427-4241

June 26, 1989
For immediate release

What is "natural" beef

Confusion surrounds the term "natural" when applied to food products and particularly to beef, says Alberta Agriculture's provincial foods and nutrition specialist.

Consumer and Corporate Affairs Canada says the claim "natural" is synonymous with the claim "contains no food additive, added nutrients, flavoring agents, incidental additives or contaminants and has not been further processed", says Aileen Whitmore. "Based on this definition, the question becomes 'Isn't all beef natural?'.

"Whether or not there is any justification, some consumers regard foods described as natural of greater worth. In the case of beef, and using Consumer and Corporate Affairs' guidelines, all beef could be described as natural," she says.

Some advertising of "natural" beef suggests a "back to nature" approach is used in raising that beef product. It outlines that cattle are nurtured on fresh water from natural water sources, untouched prairie pasture and natural feed, says Whitmore. "In fact, all fresh water is from natural sources," she says.

"While 'untouched prairie pastures' may arouse emotional feelings in the consumer, pasture alone very rarely provides sufficient feed to finish cattle. With respect to natural feed, all grain fed cattle are receiving natural feed," she adds.

Advertising literature for natural beef also says it has no artificial additives, preservatives, chemicals, growth accelerators or antibiotics used at any time. "The simple fact is that all beef is free of artificial additives, preservatives and chemicals. While growth accelerators and antibiotics are used, the facts about their use have been distorted or not all the facts have been told. This has made consumers leery about beef, when they shouldn't be," Whitmore says.

(Cont'd)

What is "natural" beef (cont'd)

Growth accelerators are used by most beef producers to decrease the cost of production. The result is a five to ten per cent saving in the cost of beef for the consumer.

"The growth accelerators used are the same as the estrogen which occurs naturally in the human body. The amount of estrogen found in beef is very small, when compared to the amounts that are consumed when we eat some other foods.

"For example, a half cup of peas supplies 40 times as much estrogen as one pound of beef. A half cup of coleslaw has 240 times as much and two teaspoons of soybean oil supplies 2,000 times as much estrogen as one pound of beef," she says.

Last month a British scientist told a Canadian audience the anabolic hormones used in beef production result in better quality, leaner meat and present no hazards for consumers. Dr. Eric Lamming is chairman of the scientific committee appointed by the ECC in 1981 to study and report on the safety of anabolic agents in animal production.

"There is no scientific reason to ban hormones in livestock production. The EEC ban is clearly based on political grounds," says Lamming of the EEC ban effective January 1, 1989. "The EEC ban was instituted in spite of the scientific evidence, as a political solution to problems of food surpluses generated by the EEC's Common Agricultural Policy."

Antibiotics are used only to treat sick animals. Their use enhances the safety of food supply. As well, federal regulations require that an animal can't be sold until the antibiotic has cleared its system. Antibiotic levels are monitored by Agriculture Canada meat inspectors. When any evidence of antibiotics is found, the animal is rejected.

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Contact: Aileen Whitmore
427-2412

June 26, 1989
For immediate release

Crop residue decreases erosion

Two Agricultural Service Boards in north central Alberta will be running soil conservation projects focusing on keeping crop residue on the surface to protect soil from erosion and degradation.

Project funding is from the Canada/Alberta Agreement on Soil, Water and Cropping Research and Technology Transfer (CARTT). "The County of Flagstaff Agricultural Service Board is involved in two projects and the County of Vermilion River Agricultural Service Board is co-operating with three other municipalities in its project," says Carol Bettac, co-ordinator of CARTT area B. Area B includes the north central, north east and north west agriculture regions running from Red Deer north to the Barrhead/Athabasca/Lac La Biche districts and from the Saskatchewan border west to the foothills.

One of the Flagstaff projects demonstrates levels of stubble residue left on the soil surface by four fallow systems. A summerfallow field will be used to compare a chem-fallow herbicide-only treatment with three tillage operations. The three tillage plots will be cultivated either three, five or seven times. Bettac says stubble residue on each of the four plots will be measured to determine potential soil erosion losses.

The second project will measure and compare soil moisture, weed populations and soil erosion potential in three different fallow systems. A conventional fallow of five to six cultivations will be compared to a chem-fallow plot and a plot where a combination of noble blade tillage and herbicides is used.

"This demonstration will be used to increase awareness of conservation fallow systems and their effectiveness in reducing erosion potential, weed control and moisture conservation," she says.

Demonstrating increased stubble and residue retention by using a narrow space (32") blade cultivator is the objective of the County of Vermilion River ASB project. Blade cultivators leave stubble standing during tillage operations.

(Cont'd)

Crop residue decreases erosion (cont'd)

"This tillage method decreases soil erosion and decreases the loss of soil moisture. Both are beneficial for growing better crops," says Bettac.

Ten demonstration sites in the County of Vermilion River, County of Two Hills, Municipal District of Wainwright and Municipal District of Provost are part of the project. Each site will be split into two treatments, conventional tillage and the narrow spaced blade cultivator tillage.

The initial spring operation on the blade cultivator plots will be herbicide application. The blade cultivator will be used for subsequent cultivations. All plots will have residue cover, erosion potential, soil moisture, fertility, weed populations, working depths, draft and travel speed monitored. Soil type and topography will also be recorded.

CARTT's objective is to develop and transfer appropriate conservation tillage and cropping technology which will minimize soil degradation and sustain economic crop production.

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Contact: Carol Bettac
679-1210

June 26, 1989
For immediate release

International soil and water organization will meet in Edmonton

The Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) will be holding its annual meeting in Western Canada for the first time this year.

The international organization will be meeting in Edmonton from July 30 through August 2. Organizers expect about 1200 people will take part in meeting activities. About 800 will be delegates, the rest spouses and families, says John Toogood, chairman of the local arrangements committee.

Registration, exhibits and research poster sessions will open conference activities, along with the president's reception on Sunday evening.

Senator Herb Sparrow is one of four speakers in the Monday morning lead off keynote session on sustainable resource development. Sparrow will discuss soil and water conservation and sustainable resource development in Canada. McGill University president, David Johnston, will talk about Canada's progress towards sustainable resource development.

Joining them on the podium is Noel Brown, director of the North American office of the United Nations Environment program. His topic is implications from the United Nations' world commission on environment and development. Charles Benbrook will discuss American progress in sustainable development. Benbrook, from Washington, D.C., is executive director of the National Academy of Science's board on agriculture.

Concurrent sessions during the meeting will look at comparison and evaluation of conservation programs, issues facing agriculture in water quality, advances in wind and water erosion prediction, total resource management plans, watershed management, international soil and water conservation issues, successful reclamation of disturbed land, working as a team for wildlife management and conservation comparisons and evaluations of the U.S. Food Security Act.

(Cont'd)

International soil and water organization will meet in Edmonton (cont'd)

A choice of one of six technical tours is on the agenda. Delegates can visit: Alberta parkland east of Edmonton; energy resources west of Edmonton; on-farm water management at farms south of Edmonton; multiple land use in urban and rural settings around Edmonton; soil and water conservation research at the University of Alberta; and, river valley management in the North Saskatchewan River valley.

Pre and post-conference workshops and tours are also available to the delegates. The workshops are on leadership development, the World Association of Soil and Water Conservation and co-ordinated resource management.

The pre-conference tour is of southern Alberta agriculture and irrigation. A cross section of the province's million acre irrigation belt, as well as an overview of conservation projects on dryland and irrigated soil in southern Alberta are featured. Non-members of the society are also welcome on the tour. For more information contact John Calpas in Lethbridge at 320-3311.

Fort McMurray's oil sands are the destination of the post-conference tour.

For more information about the SWCS annual meeting, contact John Toogood at Alberta Agriculture's conservation and development branch at 422-4385.

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Contact: John Toogood
422-4385

June 26, 1989
For immediate release

Beef herd management study guide revised

To meet the high demand for up-to-date comprehensive information, Alberta Agriculture's Beef Herd Management Reference Binder and Study Guide has been revised.

The guide, which has already been sold to over 4,000 farmers and cattle industry specialists, has been very popular. The 800-page home study course covers genetics, nutrition, reproduction, disease, pest control, grazing management, marketing, handling and feeding facilities and finances.

"Three key sections--the trouble shooting guide, reference guide and study guide--provide participants with the means for making effective use of the background information provided. The reference binder is also being cross-references with video tapes produced by Alberta Agriculture," says Faye Douglas Phillips, home study co-orindator.

Past participants, who have maintained current mailing addresses, will receive update packages over the summer. The revised edition of the study guide is available for $35.

For more information about the study guide, contact any Alberta Agriculture district office or the home study office in Edmonton at 427-2404.

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Contact: Faye Douglas Phillips
427-2404

June 26, 1989
For immediate release

Producer options determine leanness

Producers have tremendous scope in influencing the amount of fat on a hog carcass, pork producers were told at the annual Alberta Pork Congress.

Peter English, an eminent pork researcher from the University of Aberdeen, was the featured speaker at three Congress educational seminars. "There are plenty of tools in the producer's armoury, if what the consumer wants is leaner," English said during a session on "breeding and feeding for consumer needs in the 90's".

"In order to produce what the consumer wants, producers have to pay a lot of attention to all the factors that produce quality," he says.

Genetic manipulation, feeding on the farm and pre and post slaughter treatment are the ways a producer can influence the eventual quality of meat.

Fat is a definite quality issue. While there has been a steady reduction in meat fatness, an estimated 67,000 tons of surplus fat is still trimmed by processing plants each year in Britain, he says. An equal amount is left at the side of British plates.

At the same time, a steady increase in leanness has made pork more popular with health conscious consumers, and consumer buying has grown. Other factors in its popularity include a lower relative price, adaptability in preparation and processing and attractive presentation in retail outlets. But the reduction in fat has also raised questions about if pork has become too lean, he says.

In Britain some processors penalize pork they mark as too lean, he says. The concern is that as the meat gets too lean, it may also be drier, tougher and less juicy, and as a result less tasty. As well, the nutritive quality of fat, essential fatty acids may be compromised.

He adds however, consumer and taste panel testing of meat from carcasses with 8 mm and 16 mm backfat didn't find any significant differences in the overall acceptability of the two meats.

(Cont'd)

Producer options determine leanness (cont'd)

English says a target of between 10 and 12 mm of backfat may be the optimum level of fat on a hog carcass. Achieving this level can be through one or all three of genetic manipulation, on-farm feeding and pre and post slaughter treatment.

He discussed a British study that compared the carcass and meat characteristics of various breeds concentrating on the differences between positive and negative reactors to halothane anaesthesia. The halothane reactors had superior carcass characteristics including higher percentages of lean meat, ham and loin. However, their meat quality wasn't as good. Pale soft exudative (PSE) meat was more common. The result is paler or two-toned meat with separation of fat layers and seepage. As well, fertility and reproductive performance were diminished.

Future geneticists will have to attempt to separate these good and bad traits to balance eventual meat quality with good carcass characteristics, he says.

Concerns about quality will also extend to the abattoir, he says. He predicts processing plants will be more discriminating and sophisticated in how they assess carcasses. "They will look more at meat quality. A better ability to detect quality problems, will result in greater penalties if standards aren't met," he says.

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June 26, 1989
For immediate release

Carcass contest challenges producers

Raising quality hogs is a goal of every producer. An annual competition at the Alberta Pork Congress has the additional challenge of producing that quality in a limited time period.

The top ten carcasses from the annual barrow competition were auctioned at the showcase 'ballroom sale' during the Congress main event banquet. This year, the top carcass brought the winner, the Leedale Colony of Rimbey, $4,000. The carcass was purchased by Canada Safeway in Edmonton and was donated to the Salvation Army in Red Deer.

All breeds and crossbreeds were eligible for the competition, says Alberta Agriculture's Art Lange. Lange is chairman of the Congress swine committee.

The 65 entries also included out-of-province competitors. Barrows were tagged and weighed on the producers' farms during the last two weeks of March. They had until June 12, the Monday before the Congress, to bring their pig to a 100 kg (220 pound) market weight.

Competition hogs were slaughtered on June 13 and judged by Agriculture Canada graders. Carcass quality and growth rate characteristics were considered in the scoring. Marks were given for loin eye per 100 pounds, carcass visual quality, index and average daily gain.

The top ten carcasses were exhibited by (in order from first place): Leedale Colony, Rimbey; Case Den Oudsten, Lacombe; Alan, Bill and Albert Moes, Landside, Farms, Jarvie; Glenn Allen, Minioak Farms, Penhold; Morinville Colony, Morinville; Andy Perreaux, Redvers, Saskatchewan; Gollnick Farms, Warburg; H. Kieftenbeld, K. Farms, Riviere Qui Barre; Vandershee Farms, Blackfalds; and John Knobben, Jarvie.

The average price of the carcasses were $1,900. Most buyers donated their purchases to Red Deer and area charities.

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Contact: Art Lange
427-5319

Editor's Note

Waste management has become a significant issue for hog producers in the last few years. At a recent educational seminar at the Alberta Pork Congress, two Alberta Agriculture specialists looked at producer responsibilities in waste management. The following articles can stand alone, or with some editing, could be run as a single feature article.

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June 26, 1989
For immediate release

Producer responsibilities in waste management

Farmers always face a multitude of fluctuating influences on their operations, from international price wars to pest proliferation to wild weather variations. In the last few years, they have faced another uncertainty, changes in development rules in rural Alberta.

Hog farmers have faced the most pressure and have had the most complaints. "Producers no longer can assume that starting a hog operation simply involves buying land, building a barn and raising pigs. Even hog farmers in full production may face barriers to the normal and logical expansion of their operation," says Alberta Agriculture engineer Richard Smith.

Smith says in many cases objections are being raised by other farmers, not by urbanites who have moved to the country and object to the smell of livestock. For the producer who faces the objections, the bottom line is what responsibilities does he have in waste management.

Smith, a regional engineer in Airdrie, and Brian West, provincial animal waste management specialist, addressed the issue of producer responsibility at an educational seminar during the recent Alberta Pork Congress.

"There is a natural evolution from issues, through regulations, to responsibilities," says Smith. The number one issue is odor. He says he's convinced if there wasn't a smell, there wouldn't be a problem. The bad smell is mostly a nuisance and measuring its effect is difficult.

One way is through the FIDO equation of frequency, intensity, duration and offensiveness of the odor. While the first three elements are easy to measure, the last is a subjective personal reaction. "Personal taste can't be measured or regulated," notes Smith.

The trend toward larger more intensive hog operations, smaller land bases, increasing human and livestock populations in rural Alberta, poor development decisions, lack of clarification in right to farm legislation and public perception and sensitivity have all fuelled the problem.

(Cont'd)

Producer responsibilities in waste management (cont'd)

Historically in the province there has been little regulation. A large land base and relatively small population meant rare conflicts over incompatible land uses. Today, conflicts are occurring with increasing frequency. Smith says his file on disputes has thickened from an empty file folder to one that's three inches deep over the last two years.

Municipalities have responsibility for land use planning. Through land use bylaws and development permits, the local government has control and a great deal of autonomy over development in their municipalities. Smith says the local level of government is better able to deal with specific circumstances and it's easier for producers to deal directly with it. However, the problem is councils sometime respond more to political pressure than to technical evidence.

Public health regulations, environmental controls and other agencies such as regional planning commissions and Alberta Transportation may also be involved in regulating development.

Knowing the issues and regulations is one of the responsibilities producers have, says Smith. Current issues, local bylaws, new developments in manure handling and concerns of neighbours are all on the list of need-to-know items. "The more you know and the more information you have as a producer, the better your position to deal with the problems you may have."

Common sense and public relations are also advocated by Smith. Applying common sense can solve conflicts. Public relations is often overlooked. "Being legally, morally and philosophically right won't guarantee producers will be able to operate. They have to anticipate problems. Good relationships with neighbours and the public can prevent problems," says Smith.

Producers should also do site assessments of their existing and planned operations. While odor control, sanitation and aesthetics aren't top priorities in designing and managing a hog operation, they should be considered, he says.

Science hasn't proven the eyes and nose are connected, but often if the source of smell is out of sight and the operation appears clean, the odor doesn't seem to be as bad, he says.

(Cont'd)

June 26, 1989
For immediate release

Controlling manure odor

Additives and artichokes have recently been advocated as solutions to controlling odor from swine operations.

Despite the claims on behalf of these solutions, Brian West, Alberta Agriculture's provincial waste management specialist, says there really haven't been any new breakthroughs in manure management. For example, success with manure additives have been mixed. Enzymes or bacteria are put into the manure to reduce its odors.

"People who have tried it, either swear by it or say it doesn't work. Alberta Agriculture is currently involved in a study looking at the effects of manure additives on 13 odorous compounds found in manure," he says.

As well as evaluating the effectiveness of manure additives, the study may provide some insight into measuring odor. One of the study partners, the Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville, has developed interesting analytical techniques, West says.

"The major problem, at present, is in measuring the results of odor control. Most results we get now are testimonials by users which are easily biased by the human nose," he says.

The technology to deal with odor control is still developing, says West. Some concepts are still not economical, not practical or not applicable to Alberta's climate. These include fully aerated storage, anaerobic treatment, ventilation exhaust chimneys, pre-storage aeration and composting.

For example, exhaust chimneys--common in industrial development--in a piggery, would have to be at least 50 feet high to be effective. That would require major changes to building and ventilation design.

(Cont'd)

Controlling manure odor (cont'd)

Some of the suggested technologies are workable now, he says. Solid-liquid separation does make manure handling easier. Building landscape or vegetation buffers can remove the operation from sight and work the way of the old adage. "The visual part of the nuisance is very real," he stresses.

Manure management requires proper facility design, an adequate separation distance between confined animals and neighbours, frequent manure removal, manure-tight storage, sufficient land for using the manure and rapid soil cover of manure once it's been spread.

Siting and storage are the two major considerations in minimizing odor. Alberta Agriculture has developed a minimum distance formula. These guidelines can be a starting point for choosing a site, he says.

West says swine producers usually have to make a decision whether they will use short or long term storage. The nuisance potential of storing manure has several factors. They include distance, wind direction, wind velocity, topography (air drainage patterns), how often manure is spread and in-barn management.

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Contact: Brian West
340-5322

June 26, 1989
For immediate release

Agri-News Briefs

PORK CONGRESS HAS SUCCESSFUL 15TH ANNIVERSARY

The Alberta Pork Congress celebrated its 15th year in style from June 13 through 15 in Red Deer. The Congress was officially opened by Alberta Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley. Congress president Don Sim says the annual event was very successful. Attendance was good and participation at the trade show matched last year's record numbers. Supreme champion of the swine show was a Yorkshire boar exhibited by Jim Brownlee, of Hairy Hill. The reserve show champion was a Landrace sow exhibited by Lakeland College of Vermilion. The average sale price of the 44 animals sold was $417.50. Rimbey's Leedale Colony exhibited the top carcass in the barrow competition. It fetched $4000 at the ballroom sale. At an awards luncheon, Alberta Agriculture's Sam Harbison received the pork industry leadership award, Barry and Louise Reiter and family, of Iron Springs, were recognized with the progressive pork producer award and Darwin Millar, of Vermilion, received herdsman of the year. On the lighter side, Brad Salomons, of Red Deer, was the winner of the junior hog calling class. Mary Klammer, of Vegreville, took the ladies' honors and Ron Friesen, of Manitoba, won the mens' class.

STILL TIME TO REGISTER FOR ALBERTA WOMEN'S WEEK

June 30 is the last day for early bird registration for the 59th annual Alberta Women's Week. Registration forms and information are available at Alberta Agriculture district offices. The affordable break runs July 17 through 20 at Olds College. Participants can tailor make their time at the conference at more than 20 select-a-sessions. Tours feature Alberta's diversifying agricultural industry. Special activities include a multicultural extravaganza, dinner theatre and a dessert party.

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TAKE A FARM SAFETY HIKE

Farm parents with pre-schoolers are encouraged to take a safety hike around their farm yard with help from the third annual farm safety hike guide. The guide was recently launched by Associate Agriculture Minister Shirley McClellan and members of the Women of Unifarm. Families can also win prizes by participating in the hike. The last page of the guide can be colored and entered to win a variety of farm safety equipment. The guides are available through Alberta Agriculture district offices, from Women of Unifarm local representatives and the Unifarm office at 14815-119 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, T5L 4W2 or call 451-5912. For more information contact Jacqueline Galloway at 998-0701.

YOUNG FARMERS HONORED AT CALGARY STAMPEDE

The winners of the 1988 outstanding young farmers award will be returning to Calgary to participant in the Stampede parade and take part in a number of special events. The recipients of the W.R. Motherwell Award were Alain and Celine Laroche, dairy operators from St. Albert, Quebec; Janet and John Parsons, dairy operators from Cache Bay, Ontario; and, David and Judith Jefferies, vegetable producers from Portage la Prairie, Manitoba.

BRETON PLOTS FIELD DAY FOCUS ON FORAGE CROPS

Forage crops and sustainable agriculture is the theme of this year's Breton Plots field day July 7. This year the University of Alberta is celebrating 60 years of experimental work at the Breton site. These plots are some of the oldest long-term research plots in the world. The Breton Plots are situated on grey-wooded (luvisolic) soils. Speakers from the University of Alberta will discuss using grey-wooded soils for forage production, the role of livestock in a forage production system and the economics of producing forage. Plot tours, a soil crop clinic, demonstrations of a net wrap baler and application of preservatives of high moisture hay will be featured. Activities begin at 10 a.m. Breton is about 100 km south of Edmonton on highway 39. For more information, contact Jim Robertson at 492-3242 or 492-4942.

AGRI-NEWS

July 3, 1989

For immediate release

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Information Services Division

July 3, 1989
For immediate release

Oats commodity group formed

Alberta oat producers have formed an association to promote their crop of opportunity.

An interim executive and board of directors is now registering the Oat Producers Association of Alberta, looking for members and putting funding in place.

The first major project of the fledgling association is spreading awareness about the association and its goals and attracting interested oat producers to join it, says Peter Kirylchuk, a Lac La Biche oat producer. He was elected president of the new association at a meeting of interested growers June 20 in Edmonton.

The 11-member board has started to actively promote and sell memberships in its organization. Board members represent most of the oat growing areas of the province, says Kirylchuk. He adds, he is excited and impressed by the interest, motivation and capabilities of his fellow board members.

Joining Kirylchuk on the interim executive are Bill Gaugler, of Hoselaw, as vice president, and Shirley Cripps, of Westerose, executive secretary/treasurer. The board of directors includes: Bill Loov, Bluffton; Frank Kastelic, Sangudo; Charlie Leskiw, St. Paul; Dennis Zevola, Lac La Biche; Dave Thevanz, Hines Creek; Nicholas Jonk, Westlock; Lee Smithson, Bittern Lake; and, Lawrence Kaptiski, Andrew.

Demand for oats has grown in the last few years with increased interest in oats for both human and animal consumption. Alberta is one of the premium oat growing regions in the world. Oats thrive with adequate moisture, moderate temperatures and little wind. Black and grey wooded soil zones, in an arc through west central and north east central Alberta plus the Peace region, are the most suitable growing areas.

(Cont'd)

Oats commodity group formed (cont'd)

While Kirylchuk has been growing oats for many years, he, along with other Alberta producers, have become more serious oat producers in the last few years with a bigger demand for their crop. Market demand and the January decision by the Canadian Wheat Board to remove oats from its jurisdiction, both played roles in the birth of the provincial oat producers association.

"It's only been in the last three years I seriously marketed and grew large quantities of quality oats; that's when quality and volume began to soar. It's spurred me on in getting involved in an association, the marketing end," he says.

Giving producers a unified voice is how Kirylchuk sees the role of the association. "We want to give every producer a chance to get the best possible return for his oats," he says.

A producer symposium has been planned by the association for late November. It will be first step in arming producers with information about production and marketing options.

Production and marketing are just two of the areas the association has taken aim at. Research and market development, are two other areas the association sees in its mandate.

For the next few months though, building awareness and membership will be the priority. Other producer organizations have already said they will provide space in their newsletters about the oat association. Alberta Agriculture district offices will also have information about the association.

An annual membership is $50 and won't need renewing until January 1, 1991. A three-year membership is $100.

Anyone who would like more information, or who would like a membership can contact a member of the board or the Oat Producers Association of Alberta at 304, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, T6H 5T6 or call 427-7366.

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(See attached list for names and phone numbers of the complete board)

Oat Producers Association of Alberta

Interim Executive

President: Peter Kirylchuk, Lac La Biche, 623-7732

Vice President: Bill Gaugler, Hoselaw, 826-3654

Executive Secretary/Treasurer: Shirley Cripps, 682-3758

Board of Directors

Nicholas Jonk, Westlock, 349-5458
Lawrence Kaptiski, Andrew, 365-2134
Frank Kastelic, Sangudo, 785-2298
Charlie Leskiw, St. Paul, 645-4931
Bill Loov, Bluffton, 843-6421
Lee Smithson, Bittern Lake, 672-6567
Dave Thevanz, Hines Creek, 685-2166
Dennis Zevola, Lac La Biche, 623-7709

July 3, 1989
For immediate release

Bow Island research substation goes ahead

A permanent agricultural research facility will be established in the Bow Island area in southern Alberta.

Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley confirmed the project, announced last September, will go ahead. "This facility will enhance Alberta Agriculture's capabilities to do applied research and development work specifically geared to southern Alberta special crop producers," says Mr. Isley.

The facility will be operated and managed as a substation of the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center at Brooks. The substation will be located south of Bow Island.

"Its location, 12 km south of highway 3 on secondary highway 879, is ideally situated to serve producers in the area," says Tom Krahn, director of the Brook's Center.

Krahn says developing the substation emphasizes the department's commitment to long term profitability of the province's agricultural producers, especially through new crop development and crop diversification.

"Many new crops available to Alberta producers require long growing seasons, irrigation and a high levels of heat units. All these conditions exist in the Bow Island area. Investigation of these crops is the reason for the substation," he says.

Preliminary plans for the 146 acre substation are well underway. Immediate priority is for a detailed soils survey, the installation of an underground irrigation system and a building site.

"Area farmers won't see any major buildings right away. With fiscal restraint, there is a five to six year time frame for getting the substation fully operational," says Krahn.

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Contact: Tom Krahn
362-3391

July 3, 1989
For immediate release

Saving underprivileged pigs

At regular 58-minute intervals a small crowd gathered around a display at the recent Alberta Pork Congress. Eight piglets doozed under a heat lamp at one end of a specially enclosed pen. Without fanfare the light switched off and the piglets scampered to the warmth of a second light and began a noisy disorderly struggle for the nipples of an artificial mother as electronics produced sow grunts. Replacer sow milk flowed, and the piglets fed.

For many watchers, the Robotic Sow was just another curious wonder of modern technology. For swine producers, it represents one of the ways to save "underprivileged" pigs.

"Underprivileged pigs can be worth a lot of money to the average operation," says Marvin Salomons, Alberta north central swine specialist. Salomons and Alan George, the southern regional swine specialist, organized the demonstration and wrote an information paper about saving what is typically the smaller weaker 15 per cent of each litter.

"In a 120-sow herd, weaning about 20 pigs per sow per year in a 65 cent market, one-tenth of one extra pig weaned per litter is worth $1969 in net income annually. Putting one per cent more pigs through the weaner barn gives an additional $2071 of yearly income," Salomons says.

Runts of the litter, weak slow growing pigs, get off to a bad start and never seem to recover. If they don't die young, they hang around wasting money and causing diseases and disruption. "Many producers think it's better to knock them on the head, and get rid of problem. But that's also a knock in the wallet," says George.

The specialists say underprivileged pigs can be saved before and after weaning with a some special care. Artificial care, like the Robotic Sow, is only one option.

(Cont'd)

Saving underprivileged pigs (cont'd)

"It's essential in reducing pre-weaning losses for your management to cater to the 15 per cent of the litter that's smaller and weaker, those pigs less than one kilogram at birth. Those management techniques should start right at birth," says Salomons.

Supervised farrowing can ensure immediate and adequate colostrum (first milk). Supervision is more economical with batch farrowing. Producers have to decide if the cost of supervised births justify the results says Salomons.

A piglet's energy stores deplete rapidly after birth. Low-weight pigs are born with lower energy reserves which cause all sorts of problems. Without a prompt adequate supply of energy from colostrum or milk, the piglet will die. As well, a of majority deaths in the first crucial 72 hours come when the low vitality piglets are crushed by the sow. These pigs are also more prone to chilling and weakness.

By dosing small weak piglets with colostrum, they get an extra chance at life. Colostrum can be from milking a newly-farrowed sow or using cow colostrum. Colostrum can be frozen and stored indefinitely.

A second option is split suckling. "The udder is a very competitive place, some rationing is needed to achieve a fair share for each pig. By allowing the smaller half of the litter an unmolested suckle two or three times during the first 24 to 48 hours, you can improve weight gains and reduce mortality," says George. The heavier piglets can be locked up for two hours at time in a heated creep or box. George notes split suckling is more worthwhile in large litters. It doesn't seem to make much difference when there are fewer than nine piglets.

Fostering is another alternative. Three types are routinely used: defensive or emergency, straight and cross. Defensive fostering is used for newborn pigs when a sow dies or has a milk shortage. Straight fostering is useful for evening up the number of pigs in each litter. Cross-fostering between simultaneously-farrowed litters, puts all the small pigs on one sow and the large ones on another.

(Cont'd)

Saving underprivileged pigs (cont'd)

Fostering strategies are based on the needs of the underprivileged piglets. "If the weaker pigs would be better left on the sow, then foster the stronger ones; if the weak pigs would do better on a new sow with a smaller litter, foster the weaker ones. Smaller pigs should be fostered to a small sow, or perferably a gilt, with smaller finer nipples so the piglet can grasp the nipples and suck more easily," says Salomons.

When sows have large litters or a poor milk supply and there's no suitable foster sow, piglets can be given supplemental milk replacer. Supplementary feeding still requires more study on its effectiveness, says George. If producers use these methods, it's critical to keep piglets warm and dry, he notes.

Artificial rearing can aid piglet survival, but the piglets shouldn't be moved into the artificial system until after they've received the critical colostrum, says Salomons. Research has shown small amounts of milk replacer fed at frequent intervals is better than giving larger amounts less often. While artificial systems have the advantage of saving pigs, they also are expensive and labour intensive.

"Getting the 'hopeless' piglet to make it out of the farrowing crates alive is only half the battle. Careful handling post-weaning is also necessary if the underprivileged pig is going to move on to the feeder barn," he says.

Weaning is traumatic for all piglets, but can be fatal for the small weak animal. They need warmth, feed and group support to make it through the first difficult days. But the weaning environment is a hostile place for the runt that most often gets pushed from the feeder, water and warmth of the group.

"The number one rule is to sort pigs in evenly sized groups when they enter the weaning area. As well, the undersized pigs can be put into a creche, a special area where they can be given individual attention. These pigs really benefit from a warm clean environment and separation from litter mates. They also need easily digestible food," says George.

(Cont'd)

Saving underprivileged pigs (cont'd)

Automated nurser/feeder systems and special creche pens are in the marketplace for the weaning and post weaning periods. The Congress demonstration included a Chore-Time Wet Nurser that can accommodate ten pigs, an enclosed D&M Piggy Box and a Kane Pig Saver with a heated floor.

Salomons says this is the second year the swine specialists organized a live demonstration. "Producers like it because they get to see the system actually working. They can see it on the trade show floor, but have a lot of questions about what it looks like with pigs in it and how it works. The demonstrations show them," he says.

For more information about saving underprivileged pigs, contact Marvin Salomons in Red Deer at 340-5336, Alan George in Lethbridge 381-5108 or your nearest Alberta Agriculture swine specialist.

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Contact: Marvin Salomons
340-5336

Alan George
381-5108

July 3, 1989
For immediate release

Backflood irrigation project gets international exposure

A conservation project in central Alberta, funded by the Canada/Alberta Agreement on Soil, Water and Cropping Research and Technology Transfer (CARTT), will be getting some international exposure this summer.

The County of Leduc Agricultural Service Board is demonstrating soil moisture conservation and water erosion control through spring backflooding. "The project site is on the tour agenda of the Soil and Water Conservation Society annual meeting this July in Edmonton," says Carol Bettac, CARTT area B co-ordinator. Area B includes the north central, north east and north west agriculture regions running from Red Deer north to the Barrhead/Athabasca/Lac La Biche districts and from the Saskatchewan border west to the foothills.

Backflood irrigation involves controlled spring flooding of low-lying areas to recharge root zone soil moisture. Dikes hold back runoff and after a few days the excess water is removed through field ditches and a control structure.

"Managing runoff conserves moisture and protects downstream areas from erosion by reducing water volume and rates," she says. Forage plots will be established in backflood and dryland areas to allow yield comparisons. Soil moisture will also be monitored.

CARTT's objective is to develop and transfer appropriate conservation tillage and cropping technology which will minimize soil degradation and sustain economic crop production.

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Contact: Carol Bettac
679-1210

July 3, 1989
For immediate release

Leave out-of-province firewood behind

Alberta is free from Dutch elm disease, but the devastating fungus is moving closer to our borders each season. It could be introduced here at any time in diseased insect-infected firewood.

"For safety's sake, campers should leave all bark covered logs behind them when returning from any province east of Alberta or from anywhere in the United States," says Jim Holley, an Alberta Agriculture plant pathologist.

There are signs along major routes into the province that make people aware of the our firewood quarantine policy, he says. Canadian-American border crossings are posted as well, he adds.

Dutch elm disease is a very virulent wilt disease that causes American and Siberian elm trees to die back completely in three to five years. It has already destroyed all native elm stands east of Winnipeg. Now the disease is killing trees in eastern Saskatchewan and in northern Montana, says Holley.

Dutch elm disease is caused by the fungus, Ceratocystic ulmi, and is spread by native and European elm bark beetles. Beetles living under the bark of diseased logs fly to healthy surrounding trees, bore underneath the bark, hollow out galleries and deposit fungal spores in healthy wood as they feed. The fungus grows into the water conducting system of the trees and eventually plugs it. Without water from the roots, leaves on affected limbs turn yellow, wilt and then fall off.

Usually one or two limbs near the top of the tree show symptoms initially. Symptoms start to become visible in early to mid-July. As beetles move downward to feed on the main trunk, more and more branches are affected.

"Diseased trees typically show fewer and fewer numbers of leaves one to three seasons after being infected. The leaves are less dense, stunted and pale green. Usually trees are completely dead within five years," says Holley.

(Cont'd)

Leave out-of-province firewood behind (cont'd)

"Since the fungus grows under the bark, there is no practical way to treat trees once they become infected. Systemic fungicides can be pumped into root systems of valuable specimens to combat the disease, but application is too time consuming and costly to be used on a large scale," he says.

Healthy trees can be sprayed with systemic insecticides to protect them from feeding beetles. Spraying with insecticides, however, not only is costly but is controversial in densely populated city neighbourhoods where most elms are planted. "In this instance, the best solution really is prevention," he says.

To remove and burn a dead elm costs about $500 per trees. It takes another $200 to $250 to plant a new tree in its place. Diseased and dying elms also need constant pruning to prevent decaying limbs from falling and causing property damage. "Costs of dealing with this disease truly are staggering and probably run into millions of dollars over the course of an epidemic," says Holley.

Chances of keeping this disease out of Alberta are good, he says. Treeless areas in southern Alberta should act as a buffer to the spread of the disease from affected regions. "Transmission from beetle infested firewood, however, still is our major concern," says Holley.

Many Alberta cities and towns literally have thousands of elms planted in boulevards and parks. These stand are impressive and stately, and would take 30 to 50 years to regenerate, he says.

For further information about Dutch elm disease, contact Holley at the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center in Brooks at 362-3391.

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Contact: Dr. Jim Holley
362-3391

July 3, 1989
For immediate release

Landlord tenant survey available

Results from Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch annual survey of landlords and tenants are now available.

Survey participants are asked about the type of rental agreement they use, what type of contract they have and how costs and government program payments are split.

"Cash rates for 1989 are equal to or higher than last year's rates," says Garth Nickorick, a farm management economist with the farm business management branch in Olds. "Rates are up to $5 per acre higher than they were in 1988. Seventy per cent of cash rental agreements are for one year."

Payment of the cash rent was made in full in the spring in 40 per cent of the agreements. A combination of spring and fall payments was the case in 50 per cent of the cash rent agreements.

The typical crop share agreement in Alberta is one-third to the landlord and two-thirds to the tenant, he says. The agreements are usually only one year in length, he adds.

Half of the landlords with cropshare leases contributed to chemical and fertilizer expenses in the same share as the crop share they receive in the rental agreement.

In the 1988 survey, government support programs were also part of the survey. "In crop share agreement, landlords received a portion of the Special Grains program in 55 per cent of the leases. Western Grain Stabilization wasn't shared. With cash leases, very few landlords received any portion of the Special Grains program," says Nickorick.

Two hundred people participated in the survey. They represent leasing agreements for 125,000 acres across the province.

For more information, or a copy of the survey results, contact Nickorick in Olds at 556-4247.

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Contact: Garth Nickorick
556-4247

July 3, 1989
For immediate release

Pasture rental survey rates

Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch has released its annual pasture leasing survey results for 1989.

"Rates charged vary across the different regions of the province," says farm management economist Garth Nickorick. "The range is from a high of $20 to as low as $5 for a cow/calf pair per month."

Rates quoted in the survey are on an animal unit month (AUM) basis. The animal unit consists of a cow/calf pair.

The highest rates charged are in the area between Calgary east to Medicine Hat and south to the Montana border. The most common rates were between $12 and $15 per AUM. The average was $14.50, notes Nickorick.

In south central Alberta, approximately from Calgary north to Red Deer and east to Oyen, the most common charge was between $10 and $15 per AUM with an average of $13 per AUM.

An area bounded by Edmonton in the north, Red Deer in the south and Killam in the east had an average rate charged of $11 per AUM. The range was between $8 and $15 per AUM.

In eastern Alberta, the Wainwright, Vermilion and St. Paul areas, the average survey rate was $9 per AUM. The survey found a range of rates between $8 and $13 per AUM.

Northern Alberta had the lowest average rate for pasture rental. The survey area bounded by Edmonton in the south, Athabasca in the north and Mayerthorpe in the west, had an average rate of $8 per AUM. The area range was between $7 and $10 per AUM.

For more information, or a copy of the survey, contact Nickorick at the farm business management branch in Olds at 556-4247.

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Contact: Garth Nickorick
556-4247

July 3, 1989
For immediate release

Interprovincial travel for 4-H delegates

While five Alberta 4-H members go east and west as part of an interprovincial exchange this week, five 4-H delegates from across Canada will be coming here to stay with Alberta families.

The Canada-wide exchange begins July 5 as 49 4-Hers from the ten provinces start their two week experience in another part of the country. Alberta's five representatives and their destinations are: Janice Copland, of Lacombe, British Columbia; Karen Kamps, of Lacombe, Saskatchewan; Wendi Anderson, of Beaverlodge, Quebec; Tanya Van Tighem, of Carstairs; Nova Scotia; and, Jamie Schrader, of Jarvie, Newfoundland.

Each delegate will stay with one or two 4-H host families, says Marguerite Stark, provincial 4-H camping and exchange specialist. "Our 4-H members will learn more about agriculture, industry and the lifestyle in other provinces. As well, they will have the opportunity to compare the 4-H program in Alberta with the one in their host province."

Before their departure, the delegates and their families were treated to a send-off banquet by the exchange sponsor, the Royal Bank of Canada.

Alberta's delegates were chosen for the exchange at the Provincial 4-H Selections in May. They were awarded the trip based on their community and 4-H involvement plus their interpersonal skills.

Five delegates from other provinces will arrive in Alberta on July 5. They will spend their first three days in Alberta visiting Calgary and Banff areas. Their tour is sponsored by Alberta Agriculture.

Delegates will then meet their host families at a barbecue hosted by the Alberta 4-H Council. After the barbecue, they will leave for the final ten days of their stay in Alberta with five families from around the province.

(Cont'd)

Interprovincial travel for 4-H delegates (cont'd)

Kathleen Wallach, of 150 Mile House, British Columbia, will stay with the Russel Schultz family of Bashaw. Donna Stirling, of Mortlach, Saskatchewan, will be hosted by the Ed Pimm family of Grimshaw. Darrel and Lorraine Neal and family, of Lacombe, will host Julien Chabot from St. Patrice de Beaurivage, Quebec. Drayton Valley and the home of Dan and Colene Davie, is the destination of Heather Isenor, of Lantz, Hants County, Nova Scotia. Riverhead, Newfoundland's Kelly Hyde will be staying with the Robert Stone family of Kitscoty.

"By staying with 4-H farm families, these five delegates will have the opportunity to learn about agriculture and rural lifestyles in Alberta. They'll also learn more about the 4-H program in Alberta," says Laura-Jeanne Lehr, 4-H summer travel and exchange co-ordinator.

The Royal Bank has sponsored the interprovincial exchange for 27 years.

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Contact: Marguerite Stark
948-8509

Laura-Jeanne Lehr
948-8509

July 3, 1989
For immediate release

Alberta crops displayed in Edmonton

People who drive by Alberta Agriculture's headquarters may have been mystified by what appeared to be a large field of fuschia flags.

The bright pink flags, aren't anything strange, they marked the plots of the "Crops of Alberta" display. Growing in the plots are a wide variety of crops that are grown or can be grown in the province.

"Crops of Alberta has been an annual occurrence since Alberta Agriculture moved from downtown to the J.G. O'Donoghue building on Edmonton's south side," says Denise Maurice, of the plant industry division.

"Special crops are emphasized in the display. Through the plots we want to make Albertans aware of the large variety of crops that are grown here and some of our potential crops. We also want to show both the trend and need to diversify our production," she adds.

Crops of Alberta is for the urban and rural visitor says its co-ordinator Clara Qualizza. "Some of the different and fascinating alternate crops on display this year are quinoa, monarda, wild rice and day neutral strawberries."

A large section of herbs and spices have been grown as part of the special crop theme. Coriander, sage, caraway and peppermint are part of the exhibit.

"We haven't forgotten the traditional crops. New and current recommended varieties of canola, wheat and barley, as well a large selection of forage plants are also in the display," she says.

Signs explain what each of the crops are, so the public can wander through the display on their own. If groups are interested in tours they can contact Qualizza at 427-7098.

"The best time to look at the crops is between mid-July and late August," advises Qualizza.

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Contact: Denise Maurice
427-7098

Clara Qualizza
427-7098

July 3, 1989
For immediate release

Agri-News Briefs

CATTLE COMMISSION ACCEPTING DELEGATE NOMINATIONS

The Alberta Cattle Commission (ACC) is now accepting nominations to fill its slate of zone directors. Nominations must be postmarked by August 18, 1989. Nomination forms and other information are available from local delegates or the ACC office in Calgary at 291-4800. All candidates must submit a resume with their nomination form. The resumes will be published in the ACC annual publication, so producers can get to know about the candidates in their area. Each of the nine zones across the province is represented ten delegates. Delegates are elected for a two year term. Half the delegate positions will be voted on during election meetings this fall between October 10 and November 10. The ACC will publish time and places of the meetings. For more information contact Gordon Mitchell, 291-4800.

SURVIVING TOUGH TIMES IN THE HOG BUSINESS

International swine experts will bring their expertise to three seminars across Western Canada in July. The full-day pig management seminar comes to Red Deer on July 27, following stops in Winnipeg and Saskatoon. Featured at the seminar are the authors of "Pigletter". Michaal Muirhead, of England, Mike Wilson, of the University of Guelph, Frank Aherne, of the Univeristy of Alberta and Allen Leman, a partner in Swine Graphics will share their production expertise. A wide variety of topics will be presented in mini-topic presentations, concurrent sessions and a wind-up panel discussion. Each participant will receive a set of notes on the slate of presentations. Advance registrations are recommended. For registration and other information about the Red Deer seminar, call Garry Finell at 436-9343.

(Cont'd)

Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

PEAS AS A SNACK FOOD

Peaola chips made their international debut at the recent Canola Council convention to rave reviews reports the Canola Digest. The snack food is being produced in Saskatchewan on a pilot scale. Its two main ingredients are peas and canola. When the Kelvington, Saskatchewan economic development committee started looking at the ways to diversify its local economy, it came up with the snack food idea. The process was developed at the University of Saskatchewan. American and Japanese companies have made enquiries about the product. The name peaola originally referred to a technique of intercropping canola with peas.

PRAIRIE CARE NEW DUCKS UNLIMITED APPROACH

Ducks Unlimited is offering farmers in designated areas across the Prairie provinces a variety of incentives to adjust their land use practices. The program, Prairie Care, is a $4.8 million dollar resource conservation program aimed at soil, water and wildlife. Prairie Care's objective is to halt soil degradation and wetland losses by providing cover for ducks. Incentives range from annual acreage payments to outright purchase of some land parcels. Ducks Unlimited has also hired agrologists in each province to assist with the program and develop close working ties with the agricultural sector. Prairie Care has been endorsed by North American Waterfowl Management Plan officials. For more information contact Prairie Care co-ordinator Dr. Wayne Cowan at 204-477-1760 or the Alberta Ducks Unlimited office at 489-2002.

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AGRI-NEWS

July 10, 1989

For immediate release

JUL 11 1989

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Information Services Division

July 10, 1989
For immediate release

Isley announces canola crusher to reopen

Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley and Smoky River MLA Walter Paszkowski have announced the Alberta Terminals Canola Crushers plant at Sexsmith will be opening its doors this fall to crush the new canola crop.

Currently owned and operated by Alberta Terminals Canola Crushers Ltd., the plant has been shut down since December, 1988 due to weak markets for canola oil and meal.

Isley notes conditions in the canola oil and meal markets have improved only slightly since the shutdown. "We have determined, however, that the costs involved in keeping the plant on standby were comparable to those involved in operating the plant. We are anxious to reopen the plant to put people back to work and to restore an important market outlet for Alberta farmers' canola seed."

The Minister says his department is now examining several alternatives for integrating the crusher at Sexsmith into a stable and healthy canola crushing industry in Alberta. "We are looking at joint ventures, partnerships and other kinds of arrangements that will allow us to ensure the economic viability of this important alternative market for farmers in the Peace River area."

The company anticipates spending about $7 million to upgrade the plant's storage and production capabilities.

"The Alberta government's commitment to the Alberta Terminals Canola Crushers Ltd. plant has been a real benefit to the farming community. We are coming through a very difficult economic period in the canola crushing industry, where profit margins have been very tight. There can be no doubt, though, that the Sexsmith crusher has contributed greatly to the profitability of area farmers, and has an important role to play in our economic future," says area MLA Paszkowski.

(Cont'd)

Isley announces canola crusher to reopen (cont'd)

"Canola is a vital crop for Alberta farmers and forms the basis for an important employment-creating, value-adding industry in our province. The Alberta government will continue to do its utmost to ensure a prosperous future for the canola production and processing sectors," says Isley.

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Contact: Brad Klak
Executive Assistant
to the Minister
427-2137

Earl Scharf
President
Alberta Terminals
Canola Crushers Ltd.
451-3920

July 10, 1989
For immediate release

Isley announces new commissions

Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley has announced the formation of two new agricultural commodity commissions, the Alberta Canola Producers' Commission and the Alberta Pulse Growers' Commission.

The two new organizations have been under development for well over a year, and have been the subject of a number of meetings between producers and the Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council. Producers and industry alike have expressed considerable support for the formation of the commissions.

"Both the canola production and the pulse growing industries hold tremendous potential for Alberta's agricultural economy. I believe the establishment of commissions to promote these important commodities is a very positive step for our province," says Isley.

The objectives of both the Canola Producers' Commission and the Pulse Growers' Commission will be to conduct research related to their respective commodities, to provide information to producers on new developments in their industries, and to promote greater public awareness of their products.

To finance these activities, the commissions will be empowered to assess a service charge on all sales of canola and pulses made by producers in Alberta. The canola and pulse commissions will differ from other existing commissions. Producers will be able to request a refund of the service charge should they not wish to support the organizations' activities.

The powers and responsibilities of the two commissions will become effective August 1, 1989. Both have been established under Alberta's Marketing of Agricultural Products Act, and will operate under the supervision of the Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council.

(Cont'd)

Isley announces two new commissions (cont'd)

Neither the Alberta Pulse Growers' Commission nor the Alberta Canola Growers' Commission will have the authority to regulate production or to set prices for their commodities.

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Contact: Brad Klak
Executive assistant
to the Minister
427-2137

Ken Smith
General manager, Alberta
Agricultural Products
Marketing Council
427-2164

July 10, 1989
For immediate release

Crow Benefit Offset program changes in September

Changes to the rate of the Alberta Crow Benefit Offset program will be phased-in.

Program payments will go through a transition phase between September 1, 1989, when the new rate of $10 per tonne takes effect, and January 31, 1990.

"Feed grain purchased and delivered before September 1 will be eligible for the $13 per tonne benefit, providing it is paid for in full before January 31, 1990. A certificate must also be issued before that date," says Don Scheer, the program administrator. He adds grain delivered and paid for in full after September 1 will be eligible for the new rate of $10 per tonne.

Home grown grain fed before September 1 may be claimed by registered producers at the $13 per tonne rate, if the claims are submitted before the January 31, 1990 deadline. If the grain is fed after September 1, it is eligible for the $10 per tonne benefit.

There will be two claim periods this year for home grown grain. They are: the two month period between July 1 and August 31; and, the four months from the beginning of the new rate on September 1 until December 31, 1989.

"Program participants who feed home grown grain to their livestock--feeder cattle, hogs, sheep, and broilers--will have their future claims adjusted for the $13 per tonne benefit on any grain fed before September 1," says Scheer. Home grown grain fed to replacement pullets will be treated the same way.

"We've already sent letters outlining these guidelines to all registered producers. We will also send information more specific to the option they are registered in during the next two months," he says.

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Contact: Don Scheer
422-0015

July 10, 1989
For immediate release

Soil conservation awareness grows in north west

Using forage crops to improve soil will be demonstrated by the Municipal District of Clearwater with help from the Canada/Alberta Agreement on Soil, Water and Cropping Research and Technology Transfer (CARTT).

"A field low in organic matter with poor soil tilth will be split into two areas. One plot will be oats underseeded with red clover. The oats will be harvested as green feed in the summer of 1989 and the clover plowed down in 1990. A two-grain, three-year forage rotation will be used on the other plot," says Carol Bettac.

Bettac is co-ordinator of area B. The CARTT program's area B includes the north central, north east and north west agriculture regions running from Red Deer north to the Barrhead/Athabasca/Lac La Biche districts and from the Saskatchewan border west to the foothills.

Bettac says these treatments will also be repeated on adjacent land with higher organic matter and tilth. Costs, returns, soil moisture and fertility will be recorded. The two methods will be evaluated through an economic analysis.

CARTT's objective is to develop and transfer appropriate conservation tillage and cropping technology which will minimize soil degradation and sustain economic crop production.

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Contact: Carol Bettac
679-1210

July 10, 1989
For immediate release

Brooks research centre field day August 18

Put on your walking shoes, make a picnic lunch and bring the family to the 27th annual field day at the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center at Brooks August 18.

"The public is invited to take part in tours, lectures, films, demonstrations and clinics," says Judy Butt, research horticulturist at the Alberta Agriculture center. The center is located five kilometres east of Brooks on the Trans-Canada Highway.

This year the field day will highlight herbs and spices and perennials, but a range of exhibits will cover a number of interesting horticultural and agricultural topics.

"Visitors will have the opportunity to taste a sample of fresh vegetables served a new way. A herb dip prepared without fat or salt will be featured," she says.

Lectures on pruning woody ornamentals, using perennials on the Prairies and flower arranging are on the agenda. Exhibits and information on shelterbelts, propagation and commercial production techniques of woody ornamentals and field crop insect monitoring will be displayed.

"Visitors attending the field day may bring samples to the plant pest clinic to have disease, weed and insect pest problems identified and for advice on ways to control those pests.

"We also want to remind our visitors to be prepared to do some walking. A special walking tour to take visitors through the arboretum and other demonstrations is one the field day's activities," she says.

Refreshments and fresh field corn, if available, will be provided. Some food services will be on sale or guests may bring their own picnic lunch.

The research centre is known for providing research and extension services to commercial horticulture and special crops industries in Alberta and to specialists across Western Canada.

(Cont'd)

Brooks research center field day August 18 (cont'd)

For more information about the field day program, write the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center at Bag Service 200, Brooks, Alberta, T0J 0J0 or call the center at 362-3391.

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Contact: Judy Butt
362-3391

Joyce Clark
362-3391

Colin McKenzie
362-3391

July 10, 1989
For immediate release

Alberta 4-Hers travel to Montana

Six senior Alberta 4-H members are in Montana on a ten day trip to take part in a state 4-H congress and learn more about agriculture in Alberta's American neighbour.

The six delegates are: Carla Brennan, of Forestburg; Jim Davies, of Dewberry; Greg Lyon, of Youngstown; Stacey Parsons, of Youngstown; Angel Roberts, of Barrhead; and, Rita Wolters, of Vermilion. The delegation also includes Lynda Miller, a Grande Prairie 4-H leader, and Janet Carlyon, the Barrhead 4-H regional specialist.

Montana's State 4-H Congress runs from July 10 through 14. "Attending this congress will provide the delegates with the unique opportunity to see how 4-H operates in Montana and the United States. They will participate in seminars about livestock, judging, agricultural economics, personal development, public speaking and other 4-H project related programs," says Marguerite Stark, provincial 4-H camping and exchange specialist.

While travelling to and from the congress, the delegation will tour and camp at various sites of interest in both Alberta and Montana. One planned stop is in the American "old west" at Virginia City.

"Alberta Agriculture has made it possible for these 4-Hers to travel to another country to learn more about 4-H and themselves. When they return from Montana, they will bring new ideas and experiences back to Alberta," says Stark.

The 4-H members were chosen for the trip at the Provincial 4-H Selections program at Olds College in May. Trip awards were based on the members' participation in 4-H and their communities and interpersonal skills. Miller was chosen for this leader development award trip based on her contribution to the 4-H program.

Delegates return to Alberta on July 16.

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Contact: Marguerite Stark
948-8509

Laura-Jeanne Lehr
948-8509

July 10, 1989
For immediate release

Combating fireblight on trees

Warm wet weather in June provided perfect conditions for fireblight bacteria to infect fruit and ornamental trees in the province, says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist.

"We've been getting a lot of calls from many areas in the province about fireblight," says Pam North, information officer for the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre in Edmonton.

Fireblight affects many fruit bearing plants. These include apples, crabapples, pears and plums, and even raspberries and saskatoons, says North. Ornamental trees such as mountain ash, hawthorn and cotoneaster also are prey to the bacteria.

The disease often begins at the end of branches and works its way down to the trunk. Leaves turn reddish brown and curl up. "They look as if they've been scorched by fire, hence the name fireblight," adds North.

Usually infected leaves stay on the tree, rather than falling off. Infected twigs and branches will also turn reddish brown and crack. Infected fruit dries up and turns brown or black. In humid weather, infected areas may ooze droplets of a clear or amber liquid. Fireblight is very infectious and can be spread easily between trees by insects, wind or rain.

"Pruning is the only way to control fireblight, but you have to disinfect your pruning sheers after each cut because the disease is so infectious," says North.

Branches should be cut 25 to 45 cm below the blighted area. Cuts should be made into healthy wood. This is a precaution in case the bacteria has moved beyond the part of the branch that looks blighted. After cutting a branch, sheers must be disinfected.

"A household bleach mixed in water is a good disinfectant. Mix 100 mL of bleach in a litre of water," she says. The pruned branches should be burned or disposed of in plastic garbage bags, she adds.

(Cont'd)

Combating fireblight on trees (cont'd)

If the fireblight appears to be in the trunk of the tree, it may be necessary to remove the entire tree. "Check the trunk for fireblight symptoms--cracking, a reddish brown color and oozing," says North.

She says there are ways to prevent fireblight. One preventative method is to avoid using high nitrogen fertilizers. This type of fertilizer promotes succulent growth which is more susceptible to fireblight. Removing suckers and waterspouts susceptible to fireblight will also help prevent the disease.

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Contact: Pam North
472-6043

Betty Vladicka
472-6043

July 10, 1989
For immediate release

Only staking tomatoes need pruning

Fresh vegetables are a tasty reward of gardening and one of the favorite of those vegetables is vine-ripened tomatoes.

"Getting that super full flavor of a vine-ripened tomato requires not only choosing fast maturing varieties, but taking care of your plants so they produce well," says horticulturist Pam North, information officer at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre.

Because of the short growing season in Alberta, it's important to select fast maturing varieties. Bush type tomatoes tend to mature earlier than staking varieties.

Bush and staking tomatoes require different types of care. "Bush, or determinate, tomatoes are stocky bush plants that may not need to be staked and shouldn't be pruned," says North. "There's a common misconception that all tomatoes should be pruned," she adds.

Leaves produce food for the plant, so removing leaves may reduce the amount of fruit the tomato plant produces. Pruning bush tomatoes will expose the fruit to more intense sunlight and may cause sun scalding.

"Staking varieties, or indeterminates, grow for as long as the weather permits," says North. Wire tomato cages or stakes with string can be used to support the plants.

"To train the plant, gently twist the stem around the string being careful not to break off the top. You can also use strips of cloth or plastic to tie the plant," she says.

Staking varieties should be pruned to maximize fruit ripening, says North. To prune, pinch out the suckers that form at the point where the branch joins the main stem.

Growing good tomatoes also requires regular watering and fertilizer. Soil around the plants should be kept evenly moist. When watering, water well to encourage a deep root system. Moisture is especially important when the plant develops its first flower clusters.

(Cont'd)

Only staking tomatoes need pruning (cont'd)

Fertilizers should be water soluble and high in potassium. Plants should be given fertilizer once every four to six weeks. North suggests 18-18-24 or 15-15-30 fertilizers. Tomatoes kept in pots should be fertilized more frequently, once every two to three weeks.

Flower clusters that appear towards the end of the summer should be pruned, she says. "It's unlikely that flowers formed after early August will have time to develop into mature fruit before the fall, so you can remove flower clusters that form after the end of July.

"With staking tomatoes, you can remove the top of the tomato plant at the end of the July. This will prevent further growth and formation of flower clusters. It will also allow the plant's energy to go to speed up ripening." she says.

For more information about growing and caring for tomatoes, contact North, or Betty Vladicka, at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre at 472-6043.

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Contact: Pam North
472-6043

Betty Vladicka
472-6043

July 10, 1989
For immediate release

Appointment in conservation and development branch

A veteran with the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC) has joined Alberta Agriculture's conservation and development branch as head of the support services section.

Brian Quinn spent 15 years in various positions with the ADC. Each of his jobs involved budget, administration and effective communication. All are directly related to his new job.

BRIAN QUINN

As head of support services, he will provide co-ordinated administrative support for the conservation and development branch so its various programs can be delivered effectively to the public. This includes financial contracts, drafting and data processing support and services.

"I've always looked for a challenge in a job, and this new position appears to provide that challenge plus an opportunity to expand my personal horizons. More importantly, it involves a field that is directed to the future and dedicated to promoting the protection and best use of our valuable agricultural resources," he says.

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Contact: Brian Quinn
422-4385

July 10, 1989
For immediate release

Fighting for a share of your stomach

Revolutions, by definition, are a complete change marked by upside down turns and forcible action. One of today's most intense revolutionary battlegrounds is found not in a foreign jungle or street, but in North American stomachs.

The battle is being waged by food marketers in Canada and the United States for the minds and stomachs of consumers says a Calgary market researcher and consultant.

The numbers of battle causalities are evidence of the size of the war. Mike Heffering says about half of the products used today weren't invented five years ago. Between 10 and 12,000 new products are introduced on grocery store shelves every year. Less than ten per cent of the new products survive their introduction. Product life span has fallen from six or seven years to three or four.

The war for stomach share is waged on ten battle fronts he told food writers at a recent Eat Write seminar in Edmonton. These battle front trends reflect changing lifestyles and health consciousness of today's consumer.

One trend is "just say no", says Heffering. While many people associate "just say no" with drugs, it also has a food link. No calories, no fat, no salt, no MSG and no preservatives are among consumer concerns. The result has been a Nutra Sweet revolution, low fat, low sodium foods and a lot of confusion in reading labels, says Heffering.

Another trend he identifies is "let's get juiced". Bottled waters and fruit juices have never been more popular, and he predicts tremendous growth in that trend in Canada. "People won't trust what's coming out of their tap to drink, but they will bath and cook with it."

"The 'workout and pigout' syndrome show how consumers adapt nutrition and health issues to their own lifestyles," he says. The simple translation is: "The more I work out, the more I can eat".

(Cont'd)

Fighting for a share of your stomach (cont'd)

The syndrome also shows signs of people moving towards self indulgent foods, he says. While people eat more healthily, they occasionally like to treat themselves for their good behavior.

A competitive high pressure society has created the "eat to win" trend. Diet is seen as helping in an competitive environment with people eating anti-stress and high energy foods.

Variety and choice demands have contributed to what Heffering calls the "eat right but take smaller bites" trend. More food companies are manufacturing single serving portions. Changes to package design not only accommodate choice in portion size, but packages are more compact, resealable and fresh. Some examples are chicken nuggets, smaller crackers and single serving soups.

Demand for convenience has fuelled the "ready to eat-take me home" trends says Heffering. Dual income homes have been a factor in the movement towards convenience. New products have premixed sauces, boiling bags or are ready for the microwave. Convenience also has to be delivered as a fresh quality product that hasn't sacrificed taste.

An offshoot of this trend is the weekend gourmet. Cooking is hurried through the week, but on the weekends time is taken to prepare and try something different.

A rise in ethnic food sections in grocery stores is part of the "put some spice in my life" trend. Heffering says Canadians have shown an interest and a willingness to explore new foods. Their interest has given a market to small speciality stores as well as specialized sections in larger stores.

"Where's the beef" once was rally cry for hamburgers, now it's the trend of people backing away from red meats. However, Heffering, says there is still a hard core group of red meat eaters.

Children have always played with their food and that is the focus of another trend. Bite sized, character based foods are two ways food is made fun.

(Cont'd)

Fighting for a share of your stomach (cont'd)

Finally, the buck has to stop somewhere. Despite two-incomes, real purchasing power has decreased says Heffering. The seller has offered more promotions, specials and generic brands. Attempts have been made to make shopping more entertaining. Scanners have made it easier to target the slow seller and to remove it from the shelf.

Heffering also says there is less brand loyalty. People choose from a circle of brands and buy what happens to be on sale within the familiar circle of brands they use.

Heffering is president of the Heffering Research Group. He is also an adjunct professor of marketing at the University of Calgary.

The Eat Write seminar was sponsored by the Alberta Dairy Products Promotion Board, the Dairy Nutrition Council of Alberta and the Dairy Bureau of Canada.

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July 10, 1989
For immediate release

Agri-News Briefs

DAIRY CONGRESS IN LEDUC JULY 25 AND 26

Billed as a two-day first-class event, the Alberta Dairy Congress is an opportunity for all segments of the dairy industry to meet, share and learn. A trade show with over 75 exhibitors will have the latest in equipment and technology. Educational seminars feature Wim Rossing, from the Institute of Agricultural Engineering in the Netherlands. His topic is robotic milking. Replacement housing and hay preservatives are also featured seminar topics. Alberta 4-H dairy club members will show their animals as part of the Western Canadian Classic Dairy Show. Antique implements will also be on display. Social events include a kick-off breakfast and brown cow social. For more information contact the Alberta Dairy Congress office in Leduc at 986-8108.

JULY PULSE TOURS IN CENTRAL AND NORTHERN ALBERTA

Three pulse tours in central and northern Alberta will be held in the last two weeks of July. Pea plot tours will be held in Vegreville and Wetaskiwin by the Central Alberta Pulse Growers. The Vegreville tour is on July 18 beginning at 1:30 p.m. and the Wetaskiwin tour is July 27 starting at 9:30 a.m. Tours will include looking at varieties, weed control, disease control and fertility plots. Guest speaker is Alberta Agriculture's Bob Park, special crop specialist. For more information about these tours contact the Vegreville Alberta Agriculture district office at 632-5400 or the Wetaskiwin district office at 352-1240. The first of two northern Alberta pulse plot tours is July 25. Tour stops include pea and fababean variety trials, herbicide trials, peas on peat soil, fababeans on deep ripped solenetzic soil and micronutrient trials. For more information contact the Morinville Alberta Agriculture district office at 939-4351.

(Cont'd)

CHEMICAL HAZARD CONCERNS BASED ON MISINFORMATION

An American federal health official says consumer concerns over the potential health hazards of Alar and other chemicals used in farming are based largely on misinformation. The American Food and Drug Administration tests a "mountain of food" each year and has yet to link any fertilizer or pesticide residues found in foods with health hazards says the official, Lois Meyer. Alar and its use on apples sparked boycotts of apples and apple products after a television news program aired stories on potential health hazards. American apple growers say their losses this year have exceeded $100 million. Meyer says there is a great deal of government data that shows Alar is safe for human consumption. Meyer also commented on various states' attempts to define "organic foods". Many of the states' guidelines for defining organic foods are actually less stringent than the American federal government's guidelines. "I don't think that consumers are getting what they think they're getting," says Meyer of organic foods.

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July 17, 1989

For immediate release

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Information Services Division

July 17, 1989
For immediate release

Seed potato exports continue to boom

Alberta's seed potato industry had another record year of sales to the United States says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"Exports sales increased by 20 per cent this year, from 14,289 tonnes in 1988 to 17,223 tonnes in 1989," says Jim Letal, horticultural crop development specialist at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre. The seed sales season is between February and May.

"This growth is the result of an aggressive marketing approach by the seed potato industry and excellent acceptance of Alberta seed potatoes because of their high quality and superior performance in the U.S. Pacific northwest," he says.

In the past, availability of trucks has been a major factor preventing large increases in export sales, says Letal. "Last year Edmonton Potato Growers, a grower owned company and the largest exporter of Alberta seed potatoes, decided to increase their export capability by renting potato storage in Washington state. This allowed growers to start shipping seed potatoes earlier, and made more trucks available for moving their seed."

Initially, Alberta's seed potato export market was Washington state buying Russet Burbank seed. Over the years the market has expanded to include Oregon and California. This year Idaho and North Dakota were added to the sales list.

Ten different potato cultivars are exported to the five states. Russet Burbank still tops exports at more than 13,000 tonnes, but other varieties are becoming more important. Letal says Shepody and Atlantic are two varieties that are gaining popularity.

"The seed potato industry in Alberta is a success story made possible through co-operation between the industry and Alberta Agriculture.

(Cont'd)

Seed potato exports continue to boom (cont'd)

"It started in 1976 with the revitalization of the government operated Alberta Seed Potato program, plus continued maintenance of high quality seed potato production," says Letal.

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Contact: Jim Letal
472-6043

July 17, 1989
For immediate release

Fighting fairy ring in your lawn

One of the most common problems people have with their lawn is the appearance of fairy ring.

"The fungus disease is first noticeable when a very dark green colored grass grows quickly in a circular or semi-circular pattern. Over time, the grass dies out leaving a circle of dead grass bordered by dark green grass," says Pam North, information officer at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre.

Another common sign of fairy ring is small tan mushrooms growing in the circle. The mushrooms are the fruiting stage of the fungus and usually appear during or after rainy weather.

There is no chemical control for fairy ring, so digging out the infected area is the only way to get rid of the fungus, says North. "If you strip the sod, you can see an abundance of greyish-white strands. This is the mycellum, or vegetative growth, of the fungus. All of this must be removed or the fungus will regrow. The mycellum can be a few centimetres into the soil or as deep as 30 cm."

As well as digging out the ring, the area 30 cm (one foot) from the inner and outer edges of the ring should be dug out. It's also important not to drop any of the infected soil on the healthy lawn.

"If you don't want to dig out the ring right away, there are ways to mask the symptoms of the fungus," says North. "If only the dark green rings are present, the entire lawn can be fertilized and watered heavily to mask the symptoms."

The fungus cuts off the supply of water to the grass roots so heavy watering will encourage the grass to grow back. A "poke and soak" method can be used to control fairy ring.

(Cont'd)

Fighting fairy ring in your lawn (cont'd)

"Use a garden fork and make holes 25 cm deep and ten to 15 cm apart throughout the ring and 30 cm beyond the inside and outside edges," she says. "Put a small amount of liquid soap in the holes, it acts as a wetting agent for the dry waxy fungus. Water heavily every second day until the ground is soggy to encourage the grass to grow back."

For more information about fairy rings contact North or Betty Vladicka in Edmonton at 472-6043.

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Contact: Pam North
472-6043

Betty Vladicka
472-6043

July 17, 1989
For immediate release

Controlling tree damage from yellow-bellied sapsuckers

Insects are the culprits people usually associate with damaged trees, but a bird in the woodpecker family can also cause problems says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist.

"Because the yellow-bellied sapsucker is protected by the Migratory Birds Act, dealing with the problems they can cause to your trees means you can only try to prevent or limit the damage without affecting the bird," says Pam North of the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre.

Yellow-bellied sapsuckers are part of the woodpecker family. They are small, 20 to 25 cm (eight to ten inches) long. They can be identified by the white stripe down closed wings, a red crown and a yellowish-white abdomen

Birches, Scotch pine, Colorado spruce and Siberian elm are the types of trees sapsuckers prefer. They cause damage by pecking horizontal rows of evenly spaced small oval to squarish holes throughout the bark. The birds drink the sap that oozes from these holes. As one row of holes dries out, the sapsucker drills another row. They usually attack the trunk or large branches.

"The amount of damage they cause depends on how severely the tree is attacked. Trees that haven't had a lot of holes drilled in them will recover. If the branches or trunk are girdled with several rows of holes, water uptake may be prevented. This would cause the portion above the girdled area to die," she says. Secondary damage from insects and disease entering the tree through the holes is also possible, she adds.

The Migratory Birds Act prohibits killing and capture of the sapsucker or destruction of its eggs, so control is limited to ways of making the tree less attractive to the sapsuckers or preventing further damage. "You can hang noisemakers, pieces of plastic or aluminum pie plates in the trees to scare them away," she says.

(Cont'd)

Controlling tree damage from yellow-bellied sapsuckers (cont'd)

North says a plastic owl, or another bird of prey, in the tree may also scare away yellow-bellied sapsuckers. A strong jet of water on the birds may also discourage them from coming to the tree.

After the sapsucker drills holes, there are ways to control damage. "Wrap damaged areas with burlap to prevent further damage. It's particularly important to wrap the girdling area," she says

"Keep the wrapping on the trees from April to late summer. This is the time the sapsuckers are most active," she adds.

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Contact: Pam North
472-6043

Betty Vladicka
472-6043

July 17, 1989
For immediate release

4-H members sharpen leadership skills at seminar

Three 4-H members are honing their leadership skills at a two-part youth leadership seminar at the Blue Lake Centre north of Hinton.

Brad Fournier, of Wetaskiwin, Colleen Fraser, of St. Paul, and Aaron Wyard-Scott, of Mannville, attended part one of the seminar the week of July 9. The follow-up session runs from November 23 through 26.

Participants are challenged in various situations and formal lectures sessions. The indoor and outdoor leadership sessions focus on communication, group, personal and planning skills. Recreational activities on the agenda include climbing, canoeing and orienteering.

"The seminar gives our 4-H members an opportunity to meet young people involved in other youth associations, to share common issues and concerns and develop leadership skills together," says Marguerite Stark, provincial 4-H camping and exchange specialist. Alberta Recreation and Parks organizes the youth leadership seminar.

Irene Osipow, a leader with the Peers 4-H club, also attended the seminar. She assisted program facilitators with organizing seminar events. She was chosen to attend the Blue Lake seminar based on her contribution to the 4-H program.

The 4-H delegates earned their trip through their achievements in 4-H and their communities. They were chosen to attend the seminar at the 1989 Provincial 4-H Selections held in May at Olds College. This is the fourth year Alberta Agriculture has sponsored 4-H youth attending this program.

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Contact: Marguerite Stark
948-8510

Laura-Jeanne Lehr
948-8510

July 17, 1989
For immediate release

Staff changes in production economics branch

A veteran with Alberta Agriculture's production economics branch is taking a two year career development opportunity with the National Tripartite Stabilization program.

Lloyd Andruchow will be head of Alberta Agriculture's specialty crops stabilization branch and will also manage the Alberta Farm Fertilizer Price Protection Plan.

During his 14 years with the production economics branch, Andruchow built a strong rapport with producers and his peers in the agriculture department.

"As supervisor of crops economics, I gained valuable insight about the special crops element of tripartite stabilization programs," says Andruchow.

"Lloyd's hard work will be missed by the branch, but the expertise he carries to the tripartite stabilization program will be a great asset," says Carlyle Ross, head of the production economics branch.

The new crops economist is Peter Woloshyn. His appointment is also a career development assignment. Woloshyn has worked in production and resource economics for the last seven years. His work involved farm surveys and computer modelling of farm production systems.

Woloshyn continues work with the crops research program. Crops costs and returns data from the research program are used extensively by producers, extension staff and in farm programs and policies.

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Contact: Lloyd Andruchow
422-5672

Peter Woloshyn
427-4001

July 17, 1989
For immediate release

New production systems economist appointed

A diverse research career across the Prairies is the background Elwin Smith brings to Alberta Agriculture's production and resource economics branch.

Smith joins the branch as a production systems economist. Economic analysis and modeling a variety of farming practices and production systems related to soil and water conservation will be his main duties.

Most recently, Smith worked for Agriculture Canada's Brandon Research Station for three years. His major responsibility there was interdisciplinary research linking experimental data with economic analysis of beef cattle production, nitrogen fertilizer response and soil conservation.

Smith received bachelors and masters degrees in agricultural economics from the University of Saskatchewan. From 1978 to 1981 he worked for the agricultural economics department at the University of Saskatchewan.

In 1986 he received his PhD in agricultural economics from Iowa State. While at Iowa State, he worked on an economic model for appraising the Resource Conservation Act undertaken by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Smith was raised on a mixed farm in south central Saskatchewan.

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Contact: Elwin Smith
427-2396

July 17, 1989
For immediate release

New district home economist in Grande Prairie

The path has been roundabout, but Susan Meyer has finally realized her girlhood goal of becoming a district home economist.

After graduating from the University of Alberta in 1971 with a BSc in home economics, Meyer joined Canadian University Service Overseas (CUSO). The two years she spent teaching in Jamaica, led to an education certification from the University of Manitoba and to teaching home economics in Winnipeg for several years.

SUSAN MEYER

Eight years ago she returned to Alberta and joined Alberta Agriculture as the regional home economist for the Peace region. She is enthusiastic about her change from management to working more closely with farm clients. Of her first month as a Grande Prairie's district home economist, she says, "I love it."

As district home economist, Meyer works with farm families and rural community organizations in the County of Grand Prairie.

Meyer hails from east central Alberta and the community of Metiskow.

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Contact: Susan Meyer
538-5285

July 17, 1989
For immediate release

Agri-News Briefs

FARM SAFETY WEEK JULY 25-30

Farm children are the focus of the annual Canada Safety Council National Farm Safety Week July 25 through 30. The aim of this year's campaign--"Children on the farm - keep them safe"--is to have farm families take responsibility for the safety of children on their farms by identifying and eliminating hazards, setting good examples and educating children on the safe procedures to follow when in and around farm buildings, livestock and machinery. Eliminating accidents and fatalities involving children starts with the four "E's" of farm safety: Eliminate the hazards because anything that's a risk to your well being can be an even greater risk to a child; educate and caution children on procedures and behavior around livestock, machinery and farm structures; enforce the safety rules; and, set a good example. "A Child's Guide to Farm Safety", a Women of Unifarm ongoing project, is available through Alberta Agriculture district offices, the Unifarm office (451-5912) and the Alberta Agriculture farm safety program. For more information about National Farm Safety Week contact the Alberta Safety Council at 428-7555 or the Alberta farm safety program at 427-2186.

CROPS RESEARCH FIELD DAY

Guided tours of plots and meeting Alberta Agriculture plant breeders highlight activities at the Alberta field crops branch crops research field day August 2 in Lacombe. The afternoon field day is at the Alberta Field Crops Research Centre one mile south of Lacombe on the east side of Highway 2A. For more information contact the field crops branch in Lacombe at 782-4641 or the Alberta Agriculture Lacombe district office at 782-3301.

(Cont'd)

Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

ALBERTA SEED GROWER HONORED

Viking, Alberta seed grower Lumir Dobry was one of five growers honored with Robertson-Associate Awards at the Canadian Seed Growers' Association (CSGA) at its 85th annual meeting in Brandon last week. The CSGA presents the awards for grower-members who have served the organization with distinction for many years. The other 1989 recipients were: Harold Kletke, Teulon, Manitoba; Willard McFarland, Brandon, Manitoba; Lyle Orr, Unity, Saskatchewan; and, Robert Cottingham, Petersfield, Manitoba. The CSGA, formed in 1904, is the sole seed pedigreeing agency for all agricultural crops except potatoes and tree seeds. For more information contact Jo Campbell in Ottawa at (613)236-0497.

MORE PULSE TOURS

Two southern Alberta pulse tours are set for August 1 and 2. A pea, lentil and lupin tour starts in the Lomond area on August 1. Tour stops include irrigation pea varieties, irrigated peola trial, irrigated spice and monarda field, dryland lupins and laird lentils and irrigated Eston lentils. For more information contact Blair Roth in Lethbridge at 381-5124. The next day the southern Alberta pulse tour begins in the Bow Island area at 9 a.m. The tour itinerary includes navy upright beans, nightshade control in dry beans, bean variety trials, pea varieties and a demonstration of infrared thermometers on pulse crops. For more information contact Roth in Lethbridge or Ken MacPhail in Bow Island at 545-2233.

AGRI-NEWS

AUG 2 3 1989

July 24, 1989

For immediate release

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Information Services Division

July 24, 1989
For immediate release

Report suspected herbicide resistant weeds

If you suspect you have a herbicide resistant weed in one of your fields, Alberta Agriculture's crop protection branch would like to hear from you.

This year resistant chickweed has been reported in the Leduc, Stony Plain and Carstairs areas. There is a suspected site of resistant kochia in the Brooks area, says Denise Maurice, supervisor of weed research and development. She says the branch is also checking potential trifluralin tolerant green foxtail sites.

Herbicide resistant weeds have been turning up across Western Canada and the United States. Repeated use of a particular herbicide, or closely related herbicides that kill plants the same way, can cause herbicide resistant weed strains to show up. The resistant strains occur naturally and grow in greater numbers after the susceptible plants are controlled.

Maurice says the crop protection branch is on the lookout for weeds resistant to sulfonylureas and trifluralins. Sulfonylureas, for example Glean and Ally, are used to control chickweed, kochia and Russian Thistle. Green foxtail is controlled with trifluralin.

"Right now we're following up the field histories where there are possible herbicide tolerant weed strains," says Maurice. "We're very interested in any resistance sites, so we can get a better understanding of where resistance occurs and in what species," she adds.

The key to determining whether a particular weed is herbicide resistant or whether the problem is herbicide performance, is if a single species survives the herbicide treatment.

"If it's a performance problem, then numerous weed species will still be around. Only a single species surviving is a sign of possible herbicide tolerance. Initially it won't be in a large area, but in patches," she says.

(Cont'd)

Report suspected herbicide resistant weeds (cont'd)

Any one who has this sort of reaction to a herbicide in a field--the single species that survives spraying--is asked to contact the nearest district agriculturist, agricultural fieldman or Maurice at the crop protection branch in Edmonton at 427-7098.

Field history is absolutely critical to determining whether the weed is herbicide tolerant. "For example, if you've seen the single species survive spraying and used Glean or Ally in the last three to five years on that particular quarter, the likelihood of resistance is increased," she says.

The first step in confirming the weed's resistance is a soil analysis. One indication of potential resistance is if residue from the herbicide is present. Next, the weed is sprayed to see how it reacts. If the weed dies, then it isn't resistant. If it doesn't die, then it is tolerant to the herbicide.

"Resistance means that even if the weed is sprayed at four times the usual rate, it shows no effects from the herbicide," says Maurice.

A farmer confronted with a herbicide resistant weed has several options to combat the problem. Choosing the best option starts with the other weeds that need controlled. This list will determine potential herbicide controls. "The farmer may be able to mix herbicides that work in different ways to kill the weeds," Maurice says.

She cautions farmers will also have to alter their perception of effective weed control. "An individual farmer may have to step back and say, 'In order to control my chickweed problem, I may have to sacrifice extended weed control because I can't use a herbicide with residue that stays in the soil that long'," she says.

Cropping rotations also play a role. There is a greater chance for herbicide tolerant weeds to show up if a field is continuously cropped, says Maurice. "If one herbicide is used continuously year after year, pressure is put on the weed population for resistant strains to show up. Herbicide rotation will be an important management strategy to prevent weed resistance from developing."

(Cont'd)

Report suspected herbicide resistant weeds (cont'd)

"Some farmers have asked why tolerance to newer families of herbicides are showing up and not tolerance to a herbicide that has been on the market for decades," she says. The difference is in the type chemical reaction the herbicide causes.

"Glean, for example, works by causing a specific biochemical reaction with a plant enzyme. The plant can circumvent the enzyme and survive, so is resistant. On the other hand, 2,4-D causes growth malformations. Because 2,4-D affects so many of the plant's capabilities, resistance is less likely," says Maurice.

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Contact: Denise Maurice
427-7098

July 24, 1989
For immediate release

Tough tests for credit

Determining the ability of a farm business to handle debt, means the farm operator needs to take a tough look at his ability to repay a loan, says an Alberta Agriculture farm business management economist.

"Will the property pledged for collateral on your loan provide enough net cash income to service the debt against it? This is one of the key tests each farm business proposal should meet," says Garth Nickorick, of the farm business management branch in Olds.

Nickorick says the test can be applied in two ways. First, will the net cash income the individual farmer makes from the land pledged against the loan, make the loan payments? Net cash income is the revenue left after deducting production expenses and operator labor expenses.

"A more rigid evaluation test is whether cash rent earned from the land pledged in the loan would pay the loan payments and land taxes. This test allows for operator labor and depreciation and represents the returns to the land.

"For example, the cash rent rate to landlords is about five per cent of the market value of the land and long term financing is available at nine per cent. To meet this second test about 50 per cent equity is necessary," says Nickorick.

These tests focus on handling debt with a reasonable risk for long term survival. "Certainly there are other ways to evaluate credit proposals, but meeting the conditions of these tests should reduce the individual farm's vulnerability to adverse changes in the international agricultural economy.

"Use and growth of debt is not necessarily a danger signal, unless there is no corresponding growth in income," he says.

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Contact: Garth Nickorick
556-4247

July 24, 1989
For immediate release

Simple alternatives to pesticides around your yard

Pesticides are useful, but not always necessary, for controlling insect problems around yards says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist.

"There are some very simple ways to deal with insects that can be effective ways of ridding the problem from your trees or plants. Picking off the insects by hand, strong jets of water and soap and water can control problems," says Pam North, information officer at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre.

"One of the easiest ways to control insects pests is to hand-pick them. Of course, this is easiest when the insects are large such as caterpillars or slugs. It's also only practical when there are small numbers of insects to deal with," she says.

If insects are small, for example aphids or mites, then a strong stream of water from a hose will wash them off. "Plants that are susceptible to spider mites--spruce, cedar and junipers--should be sprayed with water once a week to deter the mites," she adds.

A safe and effective insecticide can be made by adding 100 mL (one tablespoon) of liquid soap to a litre (quart) of water. A pure soap should be used, not a detergent. Concentrated insecticidal soap is also effective. It's available at greenhouses and garden centers.

"Soap solutions are particularly effective on aphids, spider mites and pear slugs," says North.

Many of the same methods used on trees will also work in the garden. If numbers are low, hand-pick slugs and Colorado potato beetles. Soapy water can also be used to control insects. "Just make sure produce is washed off well with clear water before it is used or eaten," adds North.

(Cont'd)

Simple alternatives to pesticides around your yard (cont'd)

Weeds will often attract insects, so keeping them hoed down is a good control. A new non-pesticide control product on the market protects garden rows after they are planted. The reemay row cloth, or garden blanket, is a lightweight cloth used to cover plants after they are transplanted or to cover rows after seeding.

"This method is great for cole crops because it prevents root maggot flies from laying their eggs in the soil and also prevents cabbage butterflies from laying eggs on the plants," she says.

Biological pesticides are another alternative to chemical control says North. Forest tent caterpillars, budworm and cabbage worm can be fought with Bt (**Bacillus thuringiensis**), Thuricide or Dipel. The bacterium kills all of the caterpillar type of pests.

"This biological pesticide isn't harmful to bees, birds or humans. But, because the bacteria has to be ingested by the insects, foliage must be sprayed thoroughly to be effective," notes North.

Another natural pesticide is pyrethrum, a substance derived from the flowers of the chrysanthemum family. It can be used for killing caterpillars, aphids, beetles and thrips.

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Contact: Pam North
472-6043

Betty Vladicka
472-6043

July 24, 1989
For immediate release

Crops research field day at Lacombe

An in-depth guided tour of the plots at the Alberta Crops Research Centre in Lacombe highlights the annual crops research field day on August 2.

The guided tour begins at 1 p.m. and will take most of the afternoon, says Jim Helm, head of the crop research section. Interested people attending the field day will see the wide variety of projects underway at the centre. Winter wheat and triticale, spring triticale, barley, peas, crop rotation and intensive management of cereals and canola plots and projects will be on the tour.

"The research scientists will be accompanying the tour, so there will be ample opportunity to talk to them about their specific projects as the tour goes along," says Helm.

The research centre is one mile south of Lacombe on the east side of Highway 2A.

For more information about the field day, contact the field crops branch in Lacombe at 782-4641 or the Alberta Agriculture district office in Lacombe at 782-3301.

Related field days showcasing crop varieties will be held later in month at four other locations around the province. Trochu and Vermilion field days are August 3, in Olds August 8 and in Calmar August 15. For more information contact the Alberta Agriculture district office in that area.

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Contact: Jim Helm
782-4641

July 24, 1989
For immediate release

Estimated custom harvesting rates

Producers planning to use custom harvesters this fall can explore the rates they'll likely be charged by using an Alberta Agriculture survey.

"The estimates for this year are based on our 1988 custom rate survey," says Garth Nickorick, a farm business economist in Olds.

Nickorick says he expects swathing rates to range between $4.50 and $6 per acre or between $35 and $45 per hour.

Combining rates in dryland areas he estimates will range between $12 and $15 per acre or from $70 to $130 per hour. The rate is slightly higher for harvesting crops on irrigated land at between $15 and $21 per acre.

Hauling grain within two miles adds another $2 to $3 per acre, or $25 to $35 per hour, to custom harvesting costs, he adds.

For more information about custom rates, or a copy of the survey, contact Nickorick at the farm business management branch in Olds at 556-4247.

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Contact: Garth Nickorick
556-4247

July 24, 1989
For immediate release

UFA sponsors new 4-H scholarship

The list of Alberta 4-H scholarships has a new entry sponsored by the United Farmers of Alberta Co-operative Limited (UFA).

Open to past or present 4-H club members, United Farmers of Alberta 4-H scholarships will be awarded to two students entering their second year of a degree program in agriculture or a related field. The scholarships are $500.

Applicants must have demonstrated leadership abilities, been a resident of Alberta for at least five years, have satisfactory academic achievement and their parents must be actively farming. The first awards will be made for the 1989-90 academic year.

The UFA has had a long association with 4-H in the province assisting and supporting 4-H club activities at the local level.

For more information about the Alberta 4-H scholarship program and sponsoring 4-H scholarships, contact the 4-H branch in Edmonton at 7000-113 Street, T6H 5T6 or by calling 422-4H4H.

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Contact: Anita Styba
422-4H4H

July 24, 1989
For immediate release

Alberta 4-Hers attend Saskatchewan speciality camp

Two Alberta 4-Hers are at the Saskatchewan 4-H Centre this week taking part in a speciality camp.

Beth Hardy, of Pincher Creek, and Janine Schoff, of Bashaw, left for Camp Rainer near Diefenbaker Lake Saturday. The seven-day program is designed for senior 4-H members interested in learning about a particular area of interest. The camp's special areas are the media, outdoor education, performing arts, fitness and personal development.

"The program will allow Beth and Janine to learn about 4-H in Saskatchewan, to attend a different kind of program from those in Alberta and to meet new 4-H members," says Marguerite Stark, provincial 4-H camping and exchange specialist.

The Alberta delegates were chosen to attend the camp at Provincial Selections in May. They were awarded the trip based on their accomplishments and achievements in the 4-H program and their communities. Trip sponsors are the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede and Edmonton Northlands.

Hardy and Schoff return to Alberta on July 28.

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Contact: Marguerite Stark
948-8510

Laura-Jeanne Lehr
948-8510

July 24, 1989
For immediate release

Agri-News Briefs

CANADA THISTLE CONTROL VIDEO

A six minute video tackling the problem of Canada thistle is a new addition to Alberta Agriculture's film library. The video was produced by Sandoz Agro Canada with the assistance of Jim Hunter of Agriculture Canada. Hunter has studied Canada thistle extensively. His research revealed control is best achieved by understanding the thistle is a "long day" plant. "Blending cultivation and herbicides as the plant moves through the bud to rosette stages will yield excellent control," says Hunter. The video, 641-1, is available by contacting the Alberta Agriculture film library at 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, T6H 5T6.

"AT AND EAST" SUBSIDY REMOVED

Among the casualties of the last federal budget was a rail freight subsidy known as the "At and East". It was created in 1960 to offset some of the economic advantages U.S. eastern ports had over Atlantic Canadian ports of Halifax and West Saint John. It was feared the proposed rate increase would encourage more use of American ports. Instead, the federal government froze the existing rate and fixed a compensatory rate for the railways. The frozen rate became known as the "At and East" because Canadian rail freight rates would be comparable to the American rates "at and east" of Buffalo, New York. Initially the rates applied only to western grain, but in 1978 Ontario export grain also qualified. The federal government is discontinuing the "At and East" rate because it said the cost of shipping by rail to U.S. ports is now considerably higher than the cost of shipment by water through the St. Lawrence Seaway. The subsidy ended July 15 and is expected to save the federal government about $40 million. The Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) says it used the "At and East" rate for moving export grain during the winter months from Georgian Bay to Atlantic ports to sustain year around customer shipments. The subsidized rate offset the higher costs of rail movement after the close of seaway navigation. The May/June

(Cont'd)

"AT AND EAST" SUBSIDY REMOVED (cont'd)

issue of the CWB's "Grain Matters" says, "Elimination of the subsidy will undoubtedly have an impact on future rail shipment to Atlantic ports from Georgian Bay. On average the CWB moved between 400 and 500,000 tonnes of Prairie grain annually at the subsidized rate. Other options require more advance planning as all grain would have to be moved into export position before close of navigation on the Great Lakes. These options include delivery from ice-free St. Lawrence ports or the West cost and moving grain by water from Thunder Bay to Halifax.

SAFFLOWER FIELD DAY

A tour of variety research plots investigating plant densities, herbicides and irrigation are part of a safflower field day August 9 in the Lethbridge area. Also on the agenda are visits to irrigation and dryland fields and discussion of an Alberta safflower growers association. A luncheon barbecue will be held at the Agriculture Centre picnic Grounds. The day's activities begin at 9 a.m. at the Lethbridge Agriculture Centre foyer. For further information or to preregister call Blair Roth in Lethbridge at 381-5127.

NORTH EAST HEIFER SHOW RESULTS

Thirteen 4-H clubs, 43 members and 50 head of cattle were part of the annual north east regional heifer show July 2 and 3 in St. Paul. Two days of activities included team and individual grooming, judging showmanship and conformation classes. The Spirit of 4-H award, given to the most enthusiastic junior member as voted by fellow 4-Hers, went to Chris Boorse of the St. Paul Multi Club. In the judging classes the junior winners were Tanya Mandryk (Chipman) and Sean McGrath (Preston) with Allan Crawford (Irma) first in seniors followed by Carrie Lupul (Brosseau). Junior grooming went to Todd Homeniuk (Two Hills) and Anthony Huculak (Willingdon) and seniors Jackie Homeniuk (Two Hills) and Denis Kotowich (St. Paul). Marty Gottenbos (St. Paul) won senior showmanship with Rita Wolters (Preston) second. Trent Waltz (Preston) won junior showmanship with Robert Garnier (Clandonald) second. Grand champion Limousin female was a two year old cow shown by Shane Wascherol

(Cont'd)

NORTH EAST HEIFER SHOW (cont'd)

(Mannville) and the reserve champion was a yearling exhibited by Troy Waltz (Preston). Exotic champion was a two year old shown by Lyle Yuschyshyn (St. Paul) and the reserve Jennifer Makowecki's (St. Paul) yearling. A two year old cow calf pair won the crossbred championship for Denis Kotowich. Another two year old took the reserve position for Carrie Lupul. Grand Champion British breeds was a three year old Angus cow shown by Rita Wolters and reserve was a yearling shown by Karen Sledz (Andrew). The 4-H members were divided into teams and awarded points for participation. Team grooming honors went to Marty Gottenbos, Jolene Snyder (Andrew), Todd Homeniuk and Rita Wolters. Overall team honors went to Corey Vogel, Denis Kotowich, Anthony Huculak and Tanya Mandryk.

AGRI-NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch Phone: (403) 427-212

Coming Agricultural Events

1. Do you know of any provincial (Alberta), national or international agricultural meetings, conferences or conventions coming in **September, October, November, later in 1989 or 1990?**. Please state the name of the event.

2. What are the dates?

3. Where is the event being held? Include city or town; hotel and convention centre if known.

4. Please give the name, city or town, and phone number of a contact person for each event listed.

5. This form has been completed by (organization/contact/telephone number):

Please return this form by August 25, 1989 to:
Agri-News Editor
Information Services Division
J.G. O'Donoghue Building
7000 - 113 Street Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5T6

(Coming Agricultural Events is published four times a year in Agri-News. The next edition will be printed September 4, 1989.)

AGRI-NEWS

July 31, 1989

For immediate release

AUG 23 1989

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

July 31, 1989
For immediate release

$34.8 million soil conservation initiative announced

The Alberta and federal governments have signed a $34.8 million agreement aimed at fighting soil erosion and other soil degradation processes throughout the province.

The three-year agreement will be funded equally by both governments.

The announcement was made July 25 by Premier Don Getty, Chairman of the Agriculture and Rural Economy Committee of Cabinet, federal Agriculture Minister Don Mazankowski, Minister of Western Economic Diversification Charles Mayer and Alberta Associate Agriculture Minister Shirley McClellan.

"Wind and water erosion, salinity and other degradation problems affect three to five million acres of prime farmland in Alberta, resulting in millions of dollars in lost productivity," says Mazankowski. "If we don't act now to combat these processes, we will lose our most basic agricultural resource."

"Resource conservation efforts in Alberta will be shared by producers, farm organizations, local authorities, the Government of Alberta and the Government of Canada," says Getty. "We are confident that effective cooperative action taken now can halt the spread of soil degradation."

The federal contribution includes a permanent cover program providing incentives to convert marginally-productive and erosion-susceptible cultivated lands to alternative uses and an initiative to provide farmers with access to specialized conservation equipment for trials and demonstrations.

Among the provincial components is a program involving on-farm conservation demonstrations and the promotion of conservation planning and awareness at the local level. Assistance will be provided to local authorities and farm organizations to promote and demonstrate soil and water conservation and management projects within the context of a three-year action plan.

(Cont'd)

$34.8 million soil conservation initiative announced (cont'd)

The Alberta effort also includes an initiative that will provide an extra 1.5 million trees for use under the province's field shelterbelt program and will eliminate fees charged for trees used in those shelterbelts.

The agreement includes a joint federal/provincial component, under which a review will be conducted to identify any government policies and programs that discourage farmers from adopting soil conservation practices. The results of the review will be available as soon as possible so that early action may be taken in response to the findings.

"I am especially happy about this federal-provincial policy review," says McClellan. "It is very important to ensure that we are not unintentionally hindering soil conservation efforts through our policies in other areas."

The soil conservation agreement was signed under the Canada-Alberta Accord on Soil and Water Conservation and Development. The Accord is consistent with the National Agriculture Strategy, which identified soil and water resource conservation and development as one of five priorities of the federal and provincial governments.

Federal funding for this agreement comes from $75 million budgeted for the National Soil Conservation Program. The federal funding includes $45 million from the Department of Western Economic Diversification.

"This funding will enable farmers to conduct field-scale testing of different soil conservation equipment. It will also provide assistance for farmers for converting cultivated lands, which are subject to significant soil degradation, to permanent cover," says Mayer.

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Contact: Doug Radke
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Alberta Agriculture
427-1957

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Executive Director General
National Soil Conservation
(306) 780-7490

July 31, 1989
For immediate release

Vegetable buyers tour province

Buyers of Alberta fresh vegetables will be touring the province meeting with producers, increasing their awareness and exchanging information August 2 and 3.

"The tour is designed so buyers can personally experience the commitment of Alberta growers to produce and harvest premium quality vegetables. They'll be able to see, touch and taste the advantages of buying Alberta grown vegetables," says Sharon Chmielewski, of the Alberta Fresh Vegetable Marketing Board. The board is hosting the tour for major produce buyers.

"Proper handling, storage and transportation ensures produce freshness and flavor is delivered directly to the consumer. The tour will reinforce the capabilities of our vegetable producers," she adds.

Alberta boasts a bounty of fresh, nutritious and delicious vegetables. The wide variety encompasses practically everything from beans to zucchini, including favorites of corn, carrots, cabbage, peas, onions and rutabagas. Brussel sprouts, broccoli, cauliflower, Chinese vegetables, kohlrabi, spinach, squash, wiltloof and many other not so traditional garden vegetables are also grown commercially in the province.

"The fresh vegetable industry represents a dynamic and growing part of Alberta's agricultural diversification," says Carol Love Rolheiser, a crop marketing officer with Alberta Agriculture. "The industry is growing steadily year by year with increasing demand for Alberta produce. It's estimated in 1988 commercially field grown vegetables contributed over $20 million to the Alberta economy."

(Cont'd)

Vegetable buyers tour province (cont'd)

Southern Alberta growers are the focus on the first day of the tour. On the agenda: are Eldorado Farms, Redcliff, cabbage, carrots, green onions, radishes, lettuce and zucchini; Melnik Farms, Seven Persons, squash; Hopkins Vegetable Farm, Burdett, snow peas and carrots; Diamond S. Produce Limited, Taber, hydro-cooling corn and carrot package line demonstration; and, Van Giessen Growers, Coaldale, cauliflower, onions and celery.

On the second day buyers will visit Edmonton area growers. They include: Hole's Greenhouse Garden, carrots; Zaychuk Farms, broccoli; Riverbend Gardens, broccoli and cabbage; Kuhlmann Market Gardens, mixed crops; and SoYang Market Gardens, Chinese vegetables, cauliflower and broccoli.

Each evening will feature a "great taste experience". Buyers and growers will have another opportunity to meet and enjoy a meal featuring Alberta produce. The Alberta Agriculture Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre will host lunch August 3.

For further information contact Chmielewski at the Alberta Fresh Vegetable Marketing Board in Lethbridge at 327-0447.

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Contact: Sharon Chmielewski
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Carol Love Rolheiser
427-7366

July 31, 1989
For immediate release

Beware of grain bin failures with add-on bin hoppers

On-farm grain handling has been vastly improved by the advent of hopper bottoms for grain bins, but farmers have to make sure they add the innovation to their bins correctly says an Alberta Agriculture structures engineer.

"Placing steel granaries on hopper bottoms can cause bin failure if the proper details aren't followed", warns Dennis Darby, a structures engineer in Lethbridge.

"Fortunately, there haven't been many of these failures reported to us. However, a couple of recent failures prompted us to investigate," says Darby. "Farmers should carefully assess their bin situation before filling the bin or buying an add-on hopper."

The most frequently reported problem has been the collapse of the corrugated steel bin wall where it joins the hopper base. Most makes of grain bins have had at least a few of these failures, Darby adds.

"Everyone knows that grain exerts a high pressure or bursting force on the bin. What people may not realize is that grain also exerts a large vertical load on the bin walls.

"The vertical wall load we are talking about takes a sudden increase for a few seconds, the instant that grain is removed from a bin, then it relaxes. You might call this a 'shock' load. Repeated bin unloadings can accumulate the stress or damage, therefore we hear of bin failures after five or ten filling cycles.

"Most bin manufacturers install vertical stiffeners at intervals around the lower portion of their bins to handle this type of load," he says.

The problem, when bins are placed on hoppers, is that the stiffener bars might not rest on a solid support, as they do on a flat floor. "One bolt at the base is probably not adequate to prevent a collapse. Most manufacturers recommend welding a small steel bracket below each stiffener, unless the hopper ring is designed to provide positive bearing support for the steel stiffeners," says Darby.

(Cont'd)

Beware of bin failures with add-on bin hoppers (cont'd)

"Though the details differ between brands of bins and hoppers, they can all have problems if that critical assembly detail is missing. So if you have a hopper under a steel granary, check it out," advises Darby.

The vertical stiffeners should rest on a solid support, not just rely on one small bolt. If in doubt, he says, check with the bin or hopper manufacturer for their recommendations.

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Contact: Dennis Darby
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July 31, 1989
For immediate release

Record participation at provincial 4-H heifer show

Twenty per cent more members, clubs and livestock totalled record participation at the 1989 edition of the provincial 4-H heifer show in Bashaw.

"We're very pleased by the enthusiasm of 4-Hers for the provincial heifer show. We had 145 members representing 47 clubs across the province. There were 165 head of livestock entered in the various classes," says Henry Wiegman provincial 4-H specialist.

The show, held July 16 through 18, featured grooming, judging, showmanship and conformation classes for junior, intermediate and senior members. Freshman classes, for members making their first appearance at the show, are a special feature.

BRAD FOURNIER AND RUSTY COX

Team grooming started the competition classes. Senior winners were Rusty Cox and Brad Fournier of the Armena Beef Club. The duo won three team awards, with Fournier picking up three more individual judging honors. The team was also first in team judging and show ring judging. Fournier won senior judging and received recognition as a high individual overall in judging and was the highest point getter for judging reasons.

(Cont'd)

Record participation at provincial 4-H heifer show (cont'd)

The supreme crossbred champion was a two-year-old Angus-cross cow shown by Geoff Hoar of the Knee Hill Valley club. Above from left to right are Gavin Hamilton, senior conformation judge, Michele Porter, junior conformation judge, Geoff Hoar and Greg Hoar.

Intermediate team grooming winners were a brother combination, Matt and Jared Heggie, of the Raymond Beef Club with the winning junior team from the South Cremona club, Cora-Lee Gano and Kyle McCool.

All 145 4-Hers at the show participated in the judging competition. They judged three classes--yearling purebred and crossbred heifers and market steers--plus wrote an exam. Fournier was first in the senior category followed by Karrie Lyn Werenka, of Sangudo. The Sangudo team of Kirk Wildman and Werenka were second behind Fournier-Cox in team judging.

(Cont'd)

Record participation at provincial 4-H heifer show (cont'd)

Top placing in the intermediate judging class went to Denis Kotowich, of St. Paul, with Geoff Hoar, of the Knee Hill Valley (Innisfail) club second. Junior winners were Greg Hoar, Knee Hill Valley, and Carrie Cholak, Lamont.

Supreme champion showmanship went to Karrie Lyn Werenka of Sangudo with Robyn Pipke, of Bashaw, the runner-up. Earlier they had placed second in respective senior and intermediate classes, but moved up in the new competition of the supreme class. Also in the supreme champion class were junior winners Stephen Cholak (Lamont) and Leigha Rattray (Airdrie), intermediate class winner Shauna Adams, of the Hastings Coulee club (Forestburg), and senior class winner Kirk Wildman.

Freshman classes for members at the provincial show for the first time are judged on both showmanship and conformation. Junior winner Leigha Rattry, of Airdrie, won the supreme championship with senior Kendra Heggie, of Raymond, taking the reserve spot.

Purebred supreme champion at the show was a two-year-old Red Angus cow shown by Curtis Werenka of Sangudo. Jill Smith's yearling Saler was the reserve supreme champion. Smith is from the Lethbridge-Coaldale club.

Geoff Hoar of the Knee Hill club had the supreme champion crossbred, a two-year-old Limousin-Saler cross. Another two-year-old, an Angus-cross cow, was the reserve champion. The cow was shown by Mark Thompson, of Milk River.

Taking the herdmanship award for another year was the St. Paul Multi Club. Runner up honors went to the Sangudo club.

Gavin Hamilton, of Innisfail, was the conformation judge. Grooming was judged by Gaylene Groeneveld, of High River, and Marvin Vaage, of Champion. Kevin Boon, of Delia, Howard Schneider, of Bruderheim, and Wayne Robinson, of Mossleigh, were the showmanship judges.

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Contact: Henry Wiegman
427-2541

July 31, 1989
For immediate release

Successful provincial 4-H dairy show

Forty-five 4-H dairy club members from 11 clubs across the province competed at the provincial dairy and team judging show in Red Deer July 21 and 22.

Steven Lang (left), of the Viking Multi Club, accepts congratulations for his win as champion showman at the provincial 4-H dairy and team judging show, from Wayne Van Sickle (center), president of the Central Alberta Holstein Association, and Jack Haines (right), the showmanship judge.

"Competition was keen, especially in the judging classes. The 4-Hers in every age group displayed excellent knowledge of dairy cattle," says Henry Wiegman, provincial 4-H agriculture specialist.

(Cont'd)

Successful provincial 4-H dairy show (cont'd)

Ella Wright of the Mountain View club took top honors in senior individual judging and as high overall individual. Jim Stannard, of the East Edmonton club, was second in the senior class and first for high overall judging reasons.

Stannard was part of the East Edmonton team that claimed the team judging honors. The other team members were Darren Hipkin and Jason Thimer. Viking Multi Club was second. Their team consisted of Steven Lang, Michael Paterson and Tracy Paterson.

The intermediate individual judging winner was Tanya Van Sickle (Mountain View) followed by Chris Thimer (East Edmonton). The junior winners were both from the Mountain View club, first was Laura Jeffery and second Scott Lausen. Taking high show ring honors were the duo of Martin Staub (Rollyview) and Michael Paterson (Viking).

Overall clipping honors went to Rob Crest of the Wildrose Club from the Athabasca area. He was first in the senior class.

Top showmanship honors went to Steven Lang of the Viking Multi Club. Reserve supreme champion was Chris Thimer, of the East Edmonton Club. They were the first place winners respectively in the senior and intermediate classes. Erin Tolsma, of Lacombe, won the junior showmanship class.

A Holstein junior yearling shown by Erin Tolsma was the supreme grand champion of the show. Linsey Chalack (Mountain View) had the supreme reserve champion with another Holstein junior yearling.

Twilite Dairy Club, of Cherhill, captured the club herdsman award. Bashaw was second and Viking Multi third.

Gordon Patriquin, of New Sarepta, was the conformation judge, Bill Kamps of Lacombe was the ringman and Jack Haines, of Leduc, judged showmanship and clipping.

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Contact: Henry Wiegman
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July 31, 1989
For immediate release

Provincial 4-H sheep show returns

This year marked a return of a provincial 4-H sheep show competition as representatives of Alberta 4-H sheep clubs gathered in Red Deer July 19 and 20 for Sheep Showcase '89.

"4-H members from six clubs brought 120 entries to various classes," says Henry Wiegman, provincial 4-H agriculture specialist.

Judging honors went to: Elizabeth Smith, junior, Wild & Wooly (Lethbridge-Coaldale); Laura James, intermediate, Foothills Club (Okotoks); Carmen Smith, senior, Wild & Wooly.

Joshua Wilson (right) had the supreme champion market lamb. At left is conformation judge Colin Campbell of Virden, Manitoba.

Junior and senior freshman class winners were both from the Okotoks area Foothills club. Shannon Clements took the senior honors and Angela Barrett, the junior. Freshman classes are for members who haven't attended a provincial competition before and is judged on both showmanship and conformation.

Rolanda Ostrom, of the Foothills club, won senior showmanship and Kari McLauchlin, of the Crowfoot club (Strathmore) was second. Top spot in the intermediate class went to Laura James with second to Angela Barrett.

(Cont'd)

Provincial 4-H sheep show returns (cont'd)

Spruceview Sheep and Dairy Club member Jocelyn Pearson, of Bowden, won junior showmanship. Tina Younge of the Crowfoot club was second. Lana Cadsand, of Rimbey, was the showmanship judge.

The supreme and reserve wool ewe champions were both Rambouillets. Karen Knight (at left), of Crowfoot, had the supreme champion and Kari McLauchlin, the reserve.

On the meat side, one breed, Suffolk, also took the top two placings. Joshua Wilson, of Irricana, had the supreme champion and Rolanda Ostrom, Foothills, the reserve.

Premier club exhibitor was the Foothills club with Spruceview in second place.

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Contact: Henry Wiegman
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July 31, 1989
For immediate release

Crops field day at Vegreville environmental centre

The Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville will host its seventh annual crops field day August 3.

Visitors will be able to take an afternoon tour of soil management, weeds, plant disease and insect pests research plots. The tour will also include a regional cereal and canola variety trial.

"Our tour will be of special interest to farmers, but everyone is welcome to attend," says Prem Kharbanda of the centre's plant sciences division.

The tour will cover field experiments on weed control with newly registered and experimental herbicides and herbicide mixtures, tolerance of new cereal varieties to registered herbicides, tolerance of rotational crops to herbicide carryover, competition and crop losses due to weeds and biological control of round-leaved mallow. A special feature is the centre's weed garden with a collection of 80 weed species.

"Tour participants will also visit field plots showing the effect of soil compaction on crop growth. The ways of measuring compaction on the farm will be discussed," says Kharbanda. "They will also see soil salinity experiments. Alfalfa and continuous cropping of grains are being used to stop salt accumulation.

"We will also visit research plots on plant diseases such as virulent blackleg and seedling blight on canola, snow mold and Fusarium wilt of alfalfa, root rot and Sclerotinia stem rot of peas and lentils and foliar diseases of cereals," he says.

Kharbanda says demonstrations of biological control of common toadflax, leafy spurge and Canada thistle is a tour highlight.

The Alberta Environmental Centre was opened in 1980. It conducts applied research for Alberta Agriculture, Alberta Environment and other provincial government departments and agencies. The centre is located in Vegreville, 100 km east of Edmonton on Highway 16.

(Cont'd)

Crops field day at Vegreville environmental centre (cont'd)

The field day activities are co-sponsored by the Vegreville Agricultural Society.

For more information about the field day contact Kharbanda in Vegreville at 632-6761.

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Contact: Prem Kharbanda
632-6761

July 31, 1989
For immediate release

MATFP conference returns to Kananaskis

Alberta farmers should mark their 1990 calendars for Alberta Agriculture's 13th annual Managing Agriculture Technology for Profit conference March 4 through 7.

"The main objective of the conference is to provide leading edge management concepts for farm business in the 1990's," says co-ordinator Trish Stiles. "The conference has traditionally been well attended by opinion leaders in the Alberta farm community."

Organized by the farm business management branch in Olds, the conference offers topics of interest to farmers and agricultural related businesses. Top calibre speakers from across North America present interactive sessions on topics ranging from farm management to human relations.

Some of the topics for the 1990 conference include: farm tax and estate transfers; a Western Canadian prairie weather forecast; agriculture through the eyes of the media; soil conservation; animal welfare; and, family communications.

The Lodge at Kananaskis will again be the site of the conference. "It's proven to be the perfect location," say Stiles. "Ninety-five per cent of last year's participants gave it an excellent rating and it was the number one choice for the 1990 conference.

"Further details on topics and speakers will be announced at a later date. Watch for registration forms at Alberta Agriculture district offices at the beginning of November. Registration is on a first-come first-served basis," she says. The conference can accommodate up to 450 participants.

For more information call Stiles, or Paul Gervais, at 556-4240 or write MATFP'90, farm business management branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta TOM 1P0.

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Contact: Trish Stiles
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Paul Gervais
556-4240

July 31, 1989
For immediate release

New 4-H memorial scholarship

A memorial scholarship has been established by the Peace Region 4-H Council to honor a man who played an integral part in 4-H in the region for almost three decades.

The Ken Edgerton Memorial Scholarship will be awarded annually, through the Alberta 4-H scholarship program, to a past or present 4-H member from the Peace region attending a post-secondary institution. It will be awarded on the basis of 4-H and community involvement, leadership skills and financial need. The first scholarship, valued at approximately $400, will be presented in the 1989-90 academic year.

"Ken Edgerton was instrumental in organizing 4-H clubs and councils in the Peace region and was the founding member of the Provincial 4-H Council," says Ted Youck, head of the 4-H branch.

Edgerton formed the Beaverlodge 4-H Beef Club in 1950 and was club leader for five years. He also established the Beaverlodge 4-H Light Horse Club remaining as its leader from its inception in 1965 until 1971. He was president and representative of the Grande Prairie district council for many years. He helped formed the Peace region council and served on it from 1972 to 1977. Edgerton also was a regional representative on the provincial 4-H council. Edgerton passed away in December, 1981.

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Contact: Anita Styba
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Janet Kerr
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July 31, 1989
For immediate release

Agri-News Briefs

DAIRY CATTLE FLY TO THE SOVIET UNION

It was a day full of firsts topped by the first shipment of live dairy cattle from a Western Canadian province to the Soviet Union. The shipment was made by Alta Genetics Inc. of Calgary. On July 18, 66 bull calves and yearlings left Calgary on a one-way trip to Moscow. The animals were loaded on a specially fitted Aeroflot cargo plane and shipped out at a cost of $100,000. It was also the first time one of the Soviet airline's commercial jets landed in Western Canada. The dairy cattle shipment is part of $1.8 million sale negotiated by Alta Genetics. The contract involves live cattle shipments and follows sales of dairy cattle embryos by the high tech research and breeding company. A crowd was on hand to watch the cattle leave. Many of the spectators contributed stock that was making the trip, says Doug Hill, Alberta Agriculture's international trade director for eastern Europe.

PULSE HARVEST FIELD DAY

The Northern Branch of the Alberta Pulse Growers Association is holding a harvesting field day on August 16. Desiccation trials, straight cutting, sund pick-up and conventional swath pick-up will be part of the demonstrations at the Joe St. Denis farm eight miles north of Morinville. A variety of combine types will be represented at the field day. These include John Deere, Massey, Case-International, New Holland, Gleaner and Belaris. A $20 registration feed includes lunch and supper. Activities start at 10:30 a.m. For more information, or to register, call the Alberta Agriculture district office in Morinville at 939-4351.

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AGRI-NEWS

AUG 3 1989

August 7, 1989

For immediate release

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Alberta
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Phone: (403) 427-2121

August 7, 1989
For immediate release

Soil and water conservation keys in sustainable development

Sustainable development has been making headlines around the world as people and governments begin to take stock of the planet's resources and balancing the needs of the human population and economic progress with pressures on fundamental water, soil, air, wildlife and other resources.

An international panel examined sustainable development from national and international perspectives recently in Edmonton at the 44th annual meeting of the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS).

Sustainable development is most simply defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the needs of the future. Soil and water conservation top the list in maintaining a viable agricultural industry.

Soil conservation advocate Senator Herb Sparrow told SWCS delegates that soil degradation is the most serious issue in agriculture, ahead of the economic problems currently plaguing the industry.

"If we don't stop soil degradation in the next 40 years, then we will lose the agriculture industry," he says of the Canadian situation. Sparrow chairs the Senate Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and authored its 1984 report "Soil at Risk".

He says more research dollars need to be put into halting soil degradation. More funding has been devoted to soil conservation in the last five years he says, but still more is needed. The Alberta and federal governments have recently signed a $34.8 million soil conservation initiative.

Sparrow also says policies that encourage soil degradation need to be reversed. His list includes crop insurance and the Canadian Wheat Board quota system. Urban expansion also needs to be controlled along with other developments including pipelines, landfills and roads that encroach on agricultural land, he says.

(Cont'd)

Soil and water conservation keys in sustainable development (cont'd)

With only nine per cent of Canada's land suitable for agriculture, a conservation ethic needs to be developed to reflect the importance of agricultural land. "The highest use for agricultural land is agriculture," he says.

Sparrow was joined on the keynote session panel by David Johnston, chairman of the national round table on the environment and the economy; Noel Brown, director of the United Nations (UN) environment program North American office; and Charles Benbrook, executive director of the Board on Agriculture, National Academy of Science in Washington, D.C.

Brown says sustainable development has come of age since the UN Brundtland Commission report was published. Canada, he says, is a global leader in the issue of sustainable development. Canada followed the Brundtland report with its own national task force on the environment and the economy. A national round table on the environment and economy has followed.

Brown also applauded a sustainable development centre in Winnipeg and Canadian involvement with sustainable development projects in developing nations.

Sustainable development needs to be a global imperative he says. Recognition of environmental issues at the most recent economic summit of western world powers is a step toward that goal.

The public needs to be familiar with the vocabulary of sustainable development and know how it effects them at the basic level of what they eat, he says.

Johnston chaired the first meeting of the national round table in June. The 26-member board links expertise from various parts of society and includes the federal finance minister along with the environment and industry ministers. The round table's job, he says, is "helping Canadians translate sustainable development from a theory into a series of hard, practical programs--to breathe life and action into the concept".

Agriculture plays a huge role in the use of natural resources and a critical role in the Canadian economy, so is a major player in integrated environmental and economic concerns, he says.

(Cont'd)

Soil and water conservation keys in sustainable development (cont'd)

Programs and practices at odds with the planet's survival have to be changed, Johnston says. "The challenge inherent in this change is to integrate the conservation of soil and water into economic planning so that society's long term goals can be met without jeopardizing the short-term economic survival of farmers."

Benbrook, who discussed American progress in sustainable development, says there is not only a need to sustain resources, but to enhance them.

He named four types of threats to sustainable development. They include physical threats such as soil erosion and compaction; biological threats such as insect and weed resistance to pesticides and loss of genetic diversity; indirect chemical threats from misguided regulation; and, economic threats.

The SWCS was founded in 1945. It is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting wise use of land and water resources worldwide. It has nearly 13,000 members in the United States, Canada and 80 other countries. The theme of the 44th annual meeting in Edmonton was "making conservation happen, together".

August 7, 1989
For immediate release

Automated milking next step in high tech dairying

Saving time, increasing productivity and taking better care of a dairy herd are three of the advantages a Dutch researcher advocates in an automated milking system.

Automated systems are a natural and logical progression from computerized identification systems developed in the early 1970's says Wim Rossing, of the Institute of Agricultural Engineering in the Netherlands. Sensors in an automated milking system would not only hook up a robotic milking machine but control feeding rations and monitor animal health.

Reducing the workload on a dairy operation is one of the key advantages for the farmer. From studies with prototypes, Rossing estimates an automated system could save two and half hours daily in a 60 to 100 head operation. That time saving may make the system attractive to producers in the labor intensive dairy industry despite an estimated cost of around $130,000. Rossing calls it "paying money to have time off".

Farmers also benefit with greater efficiency and production from their herd. The automated system follows the natural rhythm of the cow, so milking is an average of four times daily, instead of the more usual method of twice daily. More frequent milking increases production by ten to 15 per cent, says Rossing.

Research with test systems monitoring body and milk temperature have shown the automated system can also improve conditions for the cow. Experiments have tested the best location for the sensors such as the milk claw, long milk tube and short milk tube. Sensors measuring temperature can detect illness and diseases, such as mastitis, earlier. Besides aiding the cow, early detection can also save the farmer money.

"In the Netherlands we say mastitis costs about $50 to $75 per cow per year. In the United States I hear costs are even higher," says Rossing.

(Cont'd)

Sensors also provide a way to detect if a cow is in heat earlier than visual observation. By combining temperature and activity measurements (a meter on the legs of the animal) a more accurate measure than visual observation alone is obtained. Early heat detection can save another $50 per cow per year says Rossing.

One of the main features of the automated system is the robotic milking machine. Rossing showed a video of the prototype in action to audiences at the Alberta Dairy Congress in Leduc in late July. Once the cow is in a specialized stall, sensors determine the position of the cow's udder and teats. The robot attaches the milking cluster one teat at a time, cleans the teat as it attaches and then begins milking.

Rossing says his institute isn't alone in developing an automated milking and integrated feeding system. Other research work is being done in Holland and across Europe in Germany, France and England, he says.

He says his system could be on the market as soon as 1992. Testing will continue and researchers will look at making routing between resting, feeding and milking more efficient.

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August 7, 1989
For immediate release

Coaldale 4-Her wins conservation award

A 17-year old 4-H member from the Coaldale 4-H Swine Club is the 1989 winner of the Grant MacEwan Conservation Award.

Carol Braat was recognized for her efforts in spreading the conservation message in her community after she attended the 1988 Alberta 4-H Conservation Camp.

Among Braat's projects were presentations to area elementary school students focusing on the importance of conservation to them and designing and distributing a conservation poster. The poster featured the theme of the annual camp, "five is one", representing soil, water, forest, range and fish and wildlife conservation.

"We know conservation campers promoted conservation much more actively in their communities during the past year," says Henry Wiegman, provincial 4-H agricultural specialist. "It speaks well of the program and of the interest young Albertans have in the resources of their province."

The Grant MacEwan Conservation Award, established in 1975, is named in honor of the former provincial lieutenant-governor, a lifetime champion of conservation. Each year a conservation camp graduate who makes an outstanding contribution in spreading the conservation message is presented with a sculptured plaque in recognition of their work.

Along with a plaque, Braat will receive a $300 cash prize and an invitation to attend the Alberta Junior Citizen of the Year awards banquet in Calgary this fall.

The award, and the annual camp, are sponsored by Alberta Power Limited and TransAlta Utilities Corporation and is administered by Alberta Agriculture's 4-H branch.

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Contact: Henry Wiegman
427-2541

Colleen Brennan
Alberta Power
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TransAlta Utilities
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August 7, 1989
For immediate release

Beef research reports available

Beef producers who want to keep abreast of some of the latest production research should get a copy of the 1989 Feeders' Day Report.

"All of the research reports from the 68th annual Feeders' Day at the University of Alberta Ellerslie animal science farm have been put together in a single publication," says Ross Gould, head of the animal management section of Alberta Agriculture's beef cattle and sheep branch. Research reports cover a broad range of beef management topics, Gould adds.

"A comprehensive study of the effects of crossbreeding double muscled and normal beef cattle has some interesting implications for Alberta beef producers," says Gould.

Animal science professor Mac Mackarechian conducted a four year crossbreeding study at the University of Alberta's Kinsella ranch between 1983 and 1987. He concluded crosses with double muscled cattle have the potential for increasing lean meat production.

Double muscled bulls bred to double muscled cows produced heavily muscled lean carcasses from 77 per cent of the matings. Double muscled bulls crossed with normal cows produced heavily muscled calves in 54 per cent of the matings, while normal bulls mated to double muscled cows produced only seven per cent heavily muscled calves.

"Makarechian suggests that if the lean meat in a 660 pound carcass was worth $1.60 per pound, a grade A carcass from the offspring of a double muscled sire and a normal cow would be worth $70 to $100 more than the carcass from a normal steer," says Gould.

At the same time, producers have to be aware of some problems with double muscled crossbred cattle. Offspring are often more susceptible to stress and stress related disease, warns Makarechian in the report. Calving difficulty may also be a problem. Most of the calving difficulty, 18 per cent, was found when normal bulls were mated to double muscled cows.

(Cont'd)

Beef research reports available (cont'd)

Matings of double muscled bulls to normal cows produced about the same number of calving problems (10 per cent) as mating between normal bulls and cows. Because of health and reproductive problems, double muscled bulls should be used a "terminal" sire, with none of the female offspring being saved as replacement heifers, he says.

The University of Alberta has maintained a separate breeding herd of double muscled cattle at the Kinsella ranch since 1967.

Some of the other studies in the Feeders' Day Report look at calving difficulties, liquid supplements with straw diets and the effect of feeding time and barley processing.

Complete reports are available by contacting Alberta Agriculture district offices or from the Faculty of Extension, University of Alberta Edmonton, T6G 2G4.

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Contact: Ross Gould
427-5083

August 7, 1989
For immediate release

New home economist in Sangudo

A new district home economist will be serving the needs of farm families in the Sangudo area.

Shauna Gagne comes to Sangudo from Wainwright where she was curator of the town's museum. She isn't a stranger to Alberta Agriculture and district home economist duties, as she worked in both Olds and Stony Plain as an assistant home economist.

Gagne graduated from the University of Alberta in 1986 with a BSc in home economics.

"I'm looking forward to working with farm families in the Sangudo area and the County of Lac Ste. Anne," she says.

SHAUNA GAGNE

As a district home economist Gagne provides information in a variety of areas from finance and consumer education to nutrition and clothing and textiles. She also works closely with 4-H clubs and organizations.

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Contact: Shauna Gagne
785-2266

August 7, 1989
For immediate release

Family resource management specialist appointed

A former district home economist has been named regional family resource management specialist.

Judy Shipley-Smith has been acting specialist in Airdrie since November. The appointment was made permanent at the beginning of the month.

Shipley-Smith will be working with district home economists, regional home economists, regional economists and other Alberta Agriculture staff in the south, south central and north central regions.

"My job is to prepare resource programs and other information on farm management as it relates to farm and home record keeping, personal financial planning and human resource management," she says.

She spent six years as a district home economist in Edson, Morinville and Airdrie. She is a 1980 graduate of the University of Saskatchewan with a BSc in home economics.

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Contact: Judy Shipley-Smith
948-8505

August 7, 1989
For immediate release

Agri-News Briefs

CHANGED DATE FOR PULSE HARVEST FIELD DAY

A pulse harvesting field day has been rescheduled to August 30 from the original date of August 16. Desiccation trials, straight cutting, sund pick-up and conventional swath pick-up will be part of the demonstrations at the Joe St. Denis farm eight miles north of Morinville. A variety of combine types will be represented at the field day. These include John Deere, Massey, Case-International, New Holland, Gleaner and Belaris. A $20 registration feed includes lunch and supper. Activities start at 10:30 a.m. For more information, or to register, call the Alberta Agriculture district office in Morinville at 939-4351.

ALBERTA CONSERVATIONIST HONORED BY INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY

A former University of Alberta soil science professor, Charles Bentley, has been awarded the highest honor of the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS). The Hugh Hammond Bennett award, named for the American "father of soil conservation" and founder of the SWCS, was presented during the 44th annual meeting of the society in Edmonton. Bentley is a professor emeritus at the University of Alberta and a director of McAllister Environmental Services, a soil science consulting firm. He was cited for developing soil research and educational programs in Third World countries, extensive promotion of the importance of agriculture to society and attempts to created awareness of the need for sound land and water management practices to sustain agricultural productivity. Before his retirement in 1979, Bentley worked throughout the world in agricultural education, research, and extension. Projects he was involved with include establishing an agricultural and vocational agricultural college in northern China, planning a genetic resources bank for West Africa and assessing national agricultural capability in the francophone countries of western Africa. The Alberta chapter of the society was recognized as the outstanding chapter in the Canadian region for 1988. Three Albertans were also recognized with a

(Cont'd)

president's citation. The citations are given annually to individuals or groups who exert a special influence on SWCS activities through contributions of time, talent and energy. Alfred Birch and John Toogood, of Edmonton, and Ronald J. Hicks, of Sherwood Park, were the only Canadians among the nine winners from four countries. Birch and Toogood were respectively the program and local arrangements committee chairman for the SWCS annual meeting in Edmonton. Hicks was treasurer of the SWCS. The SWCS is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the conservation of land and water resources. It has nearly 13,000 members in the United States, Canada and 80 other countries.

DAIRY HERDSMAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM

Olds College is offering a dairy herdsman assistant certificate program through its extension service. The 15 week course begins October 10 and runs through February 5, 1990. The college extension service also offers one and two week modules on dairy herd management and production. For more information call 556-8344 or write to Olds College, Extension services, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0.

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AGRI-NEWS

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August 14, 1989

For immediate release

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Information Services Division

August 14, 1989
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Isley announces greenhouse industry assistance

An initiative aimed at promoting technological advancement and diversification in the province's commercial greenhouse industry was announced by Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley on August 4.

The program will run until March 31, 1993. In the 1989-90 fiscal year, $200,000 will be available to assist greenhouse producers. Qualifying producers may receive up to $40,000 over the four-year course of the program for assistance in eligible projects.

"Commercial greenhouse crop production is an important and growing industry in our province. I am confident the funding made available through this program will help the greenhouse industry continue as a major contributor to the Alberta economy," says Isley.

The Greenhouse Industry Assistance Program is designed to help producers with the adoption of new technology, the upgrading of production systems and crop diversification. Examples of eligible projects are: environmental and irrigation control computer systems, supplementary lighting, crop shading and cooling systems, energy saving curtains, crop diversification initiatives and specific production improvement modifications.

Assistance is available both to new and to existing greenhouse producers. Where projects involve the construction of new greenhouses or replacement of existing greenhouse structures, only those costs directly related to the introduction of new technology will be eligible for assistance under the program.

To be eligible for assistance, a producer must have a minimum of 6,000 square feet of space producing greenhouse crops for at least six months of the year. Funding will be based on half the total cost of eligible projects, to a maximum of $1.00 per square foot of production space, and will be paid to producers upon project completion.

(Cont'd)

Isley announces greenhouse industry assistance (cont'd)

Projects will be reviewed and recommended for approval by a departmental committee. Producers whose projects cannot be funded during the current fiscal year will not need to re-apply: projects will be carried over for consideration in the following year, in the order fully completed applications are received.

Further information about the program is available from the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Centre in Brooks (362-3391) and the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre in Edmonton (472-6043).

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Contact: Brad Klak
427-2137

Tom Krahn
362-3391

AGRI-NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch Phone: (403) 427-212

August 14, 1989
For immediate release

McClellan announces progress on crop insurance review

Associate Agriculture Minister Shirley McClellan says excellent progress was made by the ministers of agriculture in taking steps to accommodate farmer needs for a more flexible and comprehensive crop insurance program at the Federal-Provincial Agriculture Ministers Conference in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan.

"I am pleased to report there is agreement that the federal Crop Insurance Act should be amended to provide flexibility in the calculation of average yield to allow for technology adjustment and to cushion the impact of disaster years," says McClellan. All prairie agriculture ministers are in agreement that spot loss hail insurance must remain a part of the basic crop insurance program. Agreement was also reached on amending the federal Crop Insurance Act to permit higher coverage levels.

Other features discussed will permit greater flexibility in accommodating individual farmers' needs and include the development of methodologies and criteria to accommodate risk splitting. This could involve separate contracts for dryland and irrigated crops. The establishment of criteria to allow for the insurance of new, non-traditional crops, for which historic yield information is unavailable, will be considered.

The Federal/Provincial Review Committee will give further consideration to these and other improvements and provide cost estimates by September, 1989.

"I look forward to working with federal and provincial ministers of agriculture in developing an improved crop insurance program for implementation in 1990," says McClellan.

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Contact: Harold Hanna
Assistant Deputy Minister
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Bard Haddrell
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August 14, 1989
For immediate release

Top ram sells for $2400

The top selling ram at the 15th annual Alberta Ram Test Station Sale, McRae 1Y, was bred by Russ and Ursela McRae of Didsbury. The Suffolk ram lamb sold to Sudon Suffolks, of Edberg, and Louis and Hilda Banack, of Buck Lake, for $2400. From left to right are buyers Louis Banack, Don Forestier and Susan Hosford.

Buyers from Canada and the United States saw some of the best performance tested ram lambs and yearlings in the nation at the 15th annual Alberta Ram Test Station Sale says Alberta Agriculture's provincial sheep specialist.

"A record 326 rams from 51 contributors were entered on test this year at Olds College," says Cathy Gallivan. "Only rams above the station average for average daily gain in their breed are considered for the sale. A culling committee looks at teeth, legs and testicles of this group to determine the very best animals for the sale."

(Cont'd)

Top ram sells for $2400 (cont'd)

New test station average daily gain records were set for three breeds, says Gallivan. The new record for Hampshires is .645 kg/day set by a ram owned by Vivian Ceccato, of Eckville. The Dorset record is now .515 kg/day set by a ram owned Peter and Joyce McCart, of Spruceview. An Olds College Rambouillet ram set a new standard for its breed at .535 kg/day. Romneys were tested for the first time in 1989.

The top indexing ram in the sale, from the Suffolk flock of Caen Bly, of Cardston, had an average daily gain of .684 kg/day (1.51 lbs/day). It sold for $850 to Gary Strawson of Barrhead.

The Alberta Sheep Breeders Trophy for the highest group average daily gain on four or more rams went to Russ McRae, of Didsbury. His ten Suffolk rams averaged .560 kg/day. McRae also had the high selling ram at the sale. Sudon Farms and Louis and Hilda Banack purchased the ram for $2400.

The Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers Trophy for the yearling with the highest overall index on the Wool Breeds test went to Olds College. The college was also recognized with a plaque to mark the 10th anniversary of the ram test station at the college.

Gross receipts from the sale totalled over $39,000 and an average price of $518 was received for a total of 72 rams sold at the July 8 sale.

"Out-of-province buyers from British Columbia and Ontario purchased several outstanding rams," says Gallivan.

Suffolk led the way in the number of a breed sold at 53. A total of 212 Suffolk were on test.

"With continued enthusiasm and support, the 1990 season should be another good year. The number of rams on test has steadily increased since we started in 1975 with a 85 animals from a dozen breeders. Average daily gain has gone from just over .3 kg/day to over half a kilogram," says Gallivan.

Anyone interested in obtaining more detailed information about the 1989 results or the 1990 test should contact Gallivan, at Bag Service #1, Airdrie, Alberta, T4B 2C1 or call 948-8517.

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Contact: Cathy Gallivan
948-8517

August 14, 1989
For immediate release

Renting grain storage

A good yield at harvest may pose a problem for farmers who need extra storage capacity during and after harvest says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"They'll need to buy new bins or rent storage," says Garth Nickorick, a farm business management economist in Olds. "For farmers who don't want to invest in new bins, renting is a practical alternative."

A rental charge of 12 to 16 cents per bushel capacity of the bin for the six months to a year the bin may be needed is a reasonable rate, he says. The rate is based on current prices for metal bins set on a wood floor and current interest rates.

"For bins with hopper bottoms another two or three cents could be added to the rental rate, reflecting the extra cost and extra convenience," he says.

Older wooden bins in the last part of their useful life may be rented for considerably less. "There's increased labor involved in loading and unloading as well as any required repairs for roof, walls or floor," he adds.

Grain storage should be a consideration of any land leasing agreement, he says. Landlords aren't required to provide grain storage. "Be sure to discuss the use of buildings when negotiating a lease. Grain storage may be included in the land lease agreement, or it may be a separate item," says Nickorick.

For more information about grain storage rates contact Nickorick at the farm business management in Olds at 556-4247.

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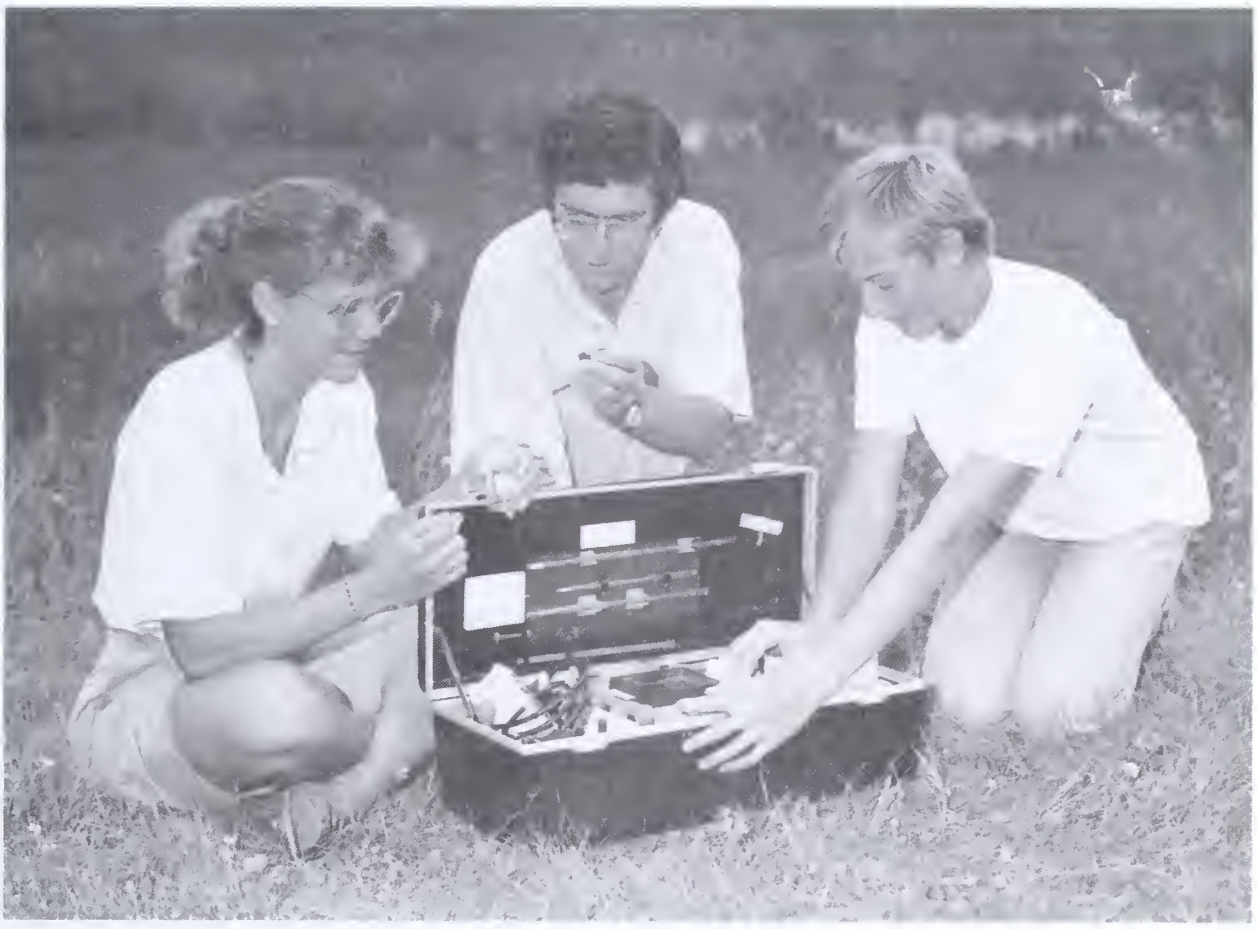
Contact: Garth Nickorick
556-4247

August 14. 1989
For immediate release

Alberta youth show leadership in conservation



Conservation campers Carla Brennan (left) and Brian Rawson (right), of the Forestburg Multi 4-H Club, join Joe Lennon (centre), camp water resource instructor from Alberta Environment in conducting a water analysis at the 1989 4-H conservation camp.

"I'm going to spread conservation messages about issues important to my community by writing speeches, news releases and designing posters," says Heather Sanden, of Airdrie.

(Cont'd)

Alberta youth show leadership in conservation (cont'd)

Sanden was one of 57 young people participating in the Alberta 4-H Conservation Camp July 29 through August 4 at the Alberta 4-H Centre. The center is located at Battle Lake, 100 kilometres south west of Edmonton.

During the six day camp 4-H delegates participate in a combination of classroom activities and field trips to learn about conservation. The delegates concentrate on two of five resource areas. They choose from soil, water, range, forestry and fish and wildlife.

Group and study sessions are led by resource specialists from Alberta Agriculture, Alberta Environment, Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife and Olds College.

Another highlight of the camp is a mock development hearing that helps 4-Hers learn the complexity of making decision about their environment. During the mock hearing on an actual environmental issue, delegates role play the parts of various groups and individuals involved in a hearing.

"We want delegates to leave the camp with a greater awareness of how they can contribute to maintaining and improving the environment in their own communities," say Henry Wiegman, provincial 4-H agriculture specialist and camp director.

Through presentations by Alberta Power and TransAlta Utilities, 4-H campers learn about energy conservation and various ways to promote conservation in their communities.

"Both Alberta Power and TransAlta Utilities are committed to promoting conservation awareness among Alberta's youth. We encourage delegates to spread the word long after the camp is over," says Dan VanKeeken, community relations supervisor for Alberta Power.

The utility companies have co-sponsored the camp since its inception in 1965. The 4-H delegates learn about important environmental issues and exchange ideas with club members from Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Montana.

Each year the Grant MacEwan Conservation Award is presented to the delegate who best communicates the conservation message in their community in the year following the camp.

(Cont'd)

Alberta youth show leadership in conservation (cont'd)

"I promoted conservation through posters, lecturing to grade four and five students and at any other opportunity I had," says Carol Braat, of Coaldale, the 1989 winner. The award is also co-sponsored by Alberta Power and TransAlta Utilities.

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Contact: Henry Wiegman
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TransAlta Utilities
422-6274

Colleen Brennan
Alberta Power
420-7180

August 14, 1989
For immediate release

Rates for vacuvator service

The labor saving grain vacuvator is becoming a more common piece of equipment on Prairie farms.

Besides reducing the awkwardness of removing and cleaning grain from bins, the device also improves the farmer's working environment by cutting back on exposure to grain dust.

"While the farmer may know about the advantages of this type of equipment, he still has to ensure the equipment is a practical and necessary investment for his operation," says Garth Nickorick, an Alberta Agriculture farm business management economist.

"Some farmers will make an arrangement to use a neighbor's machine on a trial basis. A common question we're getting is what is a fair rate for that use," he says.

A good neighbor rate, says Nickorick, is in the four to five cent per bushel rate for use of the vacuvator, or an hourly rate of between $20 and $25 for a vacuvator with a 500 bushel capacity. The borrower would supply the tractor power, fuel and labor, he adds.

Full custom service rates would be considerably higher on a per hour basis. The full service would include the tractor, vacuvator, fuel and labor at a rate of $70 to $80 per hour. "Depending on machine capacity--500 or 1650 bushels per hour--the per bushel charge would range from four to 14 cents per bushel," says Nickorick.

For more information call Nickorick at the farm business management branch in Olds at 556-4247.

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Contact: Garth Nickorick
556-4247

August 14, 1989
For immediate release

4-H's best judges compete out-of-province

Alberta's top 4-H judges have the opportunity to travel and compete at two of the largest agricultural shows in the world through the sponsorship of Uniblok Canada and the Alberta Canada All Breeds Association (ACABA).

Eight senior members and one coach will attend the Canadian Western Agribition in Regina in late November and a four member judging team plus their coach will go to the United States Western Regional 4-H Roundup in Denver Colorado in late October through the sponsorship of Uniblok Canada. The Rockyford, Alberta company is a leading manufacturer of cattle, horse and sheep supplement blocks.

"The 4-H judging programs at Agribition and Denver attract some of the best judging teams in North America," says Larry Helfrich, Uniblok's marketing manager. "Our company is a strong supporter of promoting excellence within the agriculture industry and we are pleased to sponsor Alberta's top 4-H judging teams."

The ACABA sponsors a trip for the top Alberta 4-H judge to the Denver National Western Stock Show in January, 1990.

Judging teams are selected at the provincial 4-H judging school sponsored by Edmonton Northlands November 3 through 5. Participants learn about judging all types of livestock. Seventy 4-H members from across the province are invited to the event. They qualify to attend by competing at regional judging competitions.

"Regional 4-H specialists can tell 4-H members about selection procedures in their region. October 15 is the application deadline," says Henry Wiegman, provincial 4-H agriculture specialist.

The Canadian Western International Judging Seminar is in Regina November 23 through 27. The U.S. Western Regional 4-H Roundup is in Denver, Colorado, October 24 through 29, 1990. It is the largest 4-H judging competition in the western United States.

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Contact: Henry Wiegman
427-2541

Larry Helfrich
533-3811

August 14, 1989
For immediate release

New home economist in Cardston

Cardston's new district home economist has returned to her southern Alberta roots with her recent appointment.

Christine Poss transferred from the Thorhild district office where she was home economist since 1984. "I've enjoyed the challenges of a new community and look forward to working with farm families in the Cardston area," she says.

Poss graduated from the University of Alberta with the BSc in home economics majoring in family studies in 1982.

As district home economist Poss provides farm families and rural communities with information in a wide variety of areas including financial management, Alberta food products and traditional home economics. She will also work with area 4-H clubs.

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Contact: Christine Poss
653-4848

August 14, 1989
For immediate release

Drumheller has new home economist

After several stops in Alberta Agriculture's north west region Dorene Slater has moved south to a district home economist position in Drumheller.

For the last three years Slater has been home economist in Fort Vermilion. She trained in Barrhead and Athabasca for a year after graduating from the University of Alberta with a BSc in home economics in 1985.

"I'm looking forward to working with farm families in the Drumheller area and helping them in a number of areas related to farm living--from record keeping and food preservation to 4-H and leadership development," she says.

Slater was raised on a mixed farm in the Provost area.

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Contact: Dorene Slater
823-5740

AGRI-NEWS

CANADIAN

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August 21, 1989

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

August 21, 1989
For immediate release

Improved price outlook for fall calves

A favorable slaughter cattle price outlook over the next few months and the prospect of lower feedgrain prices means an improved price outlook for calves sold this fall says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"Prices this fall are expected to exceed last year's price levels but won't rise to 1987 levels," says Ron Gietz in his quarterly livestock situation and outlook. "Good quality feeder steers in the 800 to 900 pound weight range are expected to fetch between $90 and $95/cwt. The best prices will likely be in September and again late in 1989."

Intermediate weight (600-700 lbs.) feeders are expected to average around $105/cwt., he says. Steer calves in the 500 to 600 pound weight range will trade at between $105 and $115/cwt. "Quality will continue to be the most important factor in the price received," says Gietz.

Expected tight beef supplies are the dominant factor in the fall outlook for slaughter cattle. "Industry projections are optimistic. Some analysts are suggesting Omaha Choice steer prices to go as high as $80 (U.S.) this fall," he says.

"The outlook for fed cattle prices in Alberta parallels the U.S. outlook with general price improvement expected between now and mid-fall. Extremely current marketings by Alberta feedlots helped to prevent large prices declines during the summer. By late August or early September, seasonally reduced fed cattle marketing should push prices into the low $80/cwt. range.

"Prices are expected to reach $85/cwt. during October, before slipping slightly in December. Every December for the last four years Alberta slaughter cattle prices have declined," he says. He adds prices for the first quarter of 1990 are expected to be similar to those in 1989.

(Cont'd)

Improved price outlook for fall calves (cont'd)

The pace of slaughter cattle exports to the U.S. increased dramatically during the second quarter of 1989, particularly in comparison to the first three months of the year.

In Alberta, the 83,931 head shipped south was the highest ever quarterly export. These large shipments were primarily because fed cattle production was in excess of local slaughter capacity particularly during May and June. The pace of exports is expected to decline during the summer and fall. Shipment of slaughter cattle out of the province included 12,522 head to Ontario, also a record number for one quarter.

Alberta second quarter cattle slaughter was the second highest second quarter steer slaughter on record, eclipsed only by the 1977 steer slaughter volume.

Gietz says the high volume of steer slaughter in the province can be attributed to two factors. "The first is the continuing expansion of the province's cattle feeding industry. In June, another factor which became significant in the marketplace, was increased shipments of Saskatchewan slaughter cattle to Alberta plants," he says.

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Contact: Ron Gietz
427-5376

August 21, 1989
For immediate release

PAMI signs with Alberta Agriculture

Alberta Agriculture and the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute (PAMI) have signed a memorandum of understanding to continue the working relationship between PAMI and the Alberta Farm Machinery Research Centre (AFMRC).

"The memorandum will ensure that the two centres continue to provide a total service to Prairie farmers and manufacturers," say Rick Atkins, manager of the AFMRC.

Program planning will be done jointly, but each organization will continue to specialize in the same machine areas as they have in the past. The AFMRC specializes in seeding, tillage and spraying equipment. Harvesting equipment and grain aeration and drying systems are the focus at PAMI in Humboldt and the Portage La Prairie location specializes in forage and haying systems. All evaluation reports published by both agencies will be mailed to the PAMI subscriber list.

"Staff from each agency will continue to provide extension services across the Prairie provinces. For example, an Alberta farmer calling the ARMRC can get information on combines through the combine experts in Humboldt," says Atkins.

"Through the memorandum, we're ensuring optimum use of resources by making sure we don't duplicate services. Services and information provided by each agency will be available to the farmers and manufacturers in the other provinces," he says.

Currently the two testing organizations have over 600 evaluation reports available to assist farmers with buying and operating decisions. AFMRC and PAMI facilities and expertise are also available on a contract basis to assist manufacturers to develop their equipment.

The AFMRC is located in Lethbridge. PAMI, a joint venture by Saskatchewan and Manitoba governments, has offices in Humboldt and Portage La Prairie.

(Cont'd)

PAMI signs with Alberta Agriculture (cont'd)

For more information contact the Alberta Farm Machinery Research Centre, 3000 College Drive South, Lethbridge, Alberta, T1K 1L6 or call (403)329-1212; the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute, Box 1900, Humboldt, Saskatchewan, S0K 2A0, or call (306)682-5033; or at Box 1060, Portage La Prairie, Manitoba, R1N 3C5 or call (204)239-5445.

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Contact: Rick Atkins
329-1212

August 21, 1989
For immediate release

Lamb prices continue pattern

Alberta lamb prices are expected to follow a seasonal pattern of decline with a slight recovery at the year end says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"While prices are likely to decline, the dramatic price declines of last year's third and fourth quarter aren't expected. Lamb prices are forecast to continue to rise into the first quarter of 1990," says Jo Ann Cmoluch, in a quarterly lamb situation and outlook.

Alberta lamb prices had strengthened during the first quarter and into the second quarter of 1989. Normal seasonal peaks were reached in May. May prices ranged as high as $82 to $85/cwt.

Strong export demand from the U.S. supported lamb prices in the province, she says. American prices remained relatively buoyant despite normal seasonal declines. Industry sources say that between 400 and 1,000 lambs per week are being shipped to the U.S. from Alberta at a producer price of $72/cwt., she adds.

Cmoluch predicts third quarter Lambco bid ranges of between $73 to $76/cwt. and a fourth quarter range of between $72 and $75/cwt.

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Contact: Jo Ann Cmoluch
427-4002

August 21, 1989
For immediate release

Seasonal pressure on hog prices

North American pork supplies are expected to increase again this fall putting downward pressure on prices says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"The lowest price for the second half of 1989 is expected in October at around $1.10/kg ($50/cwt.). Gradual price increases are expected in early 1990, but output will likely exceed the previous year's level," says Ron Gietz in his quarterly hog situation and outlook.

One positive note for hog producers is that costs of production will almost certainly be lower than they have been in the last year with a larger feedgrain and oilseed crop. he says.

Slaughter hog prices rallied a little during the second quarter as North American hog output went through a seasonal decline. "Even though prices did increase in May and June, in most markets they were still at the lowest level for the second quarter since 1980," he says.

"Production data suggests rather than being in a period of rapid contraction, Canadian hog output is still increasing or, at best, slowly turning around as is the case in the U.S." he says.

Hog producers also face problems from a U.S. countervail and marketing difficulties. The U.S. International Trade Commission is expected to make a final ruling by September 5 on a 7.7 cents per kilogram (3.6 cents per pound) countervailing duty.

"From a producer standpoint, the duty, at its current level, won't have a significant impact on net returns. Even after the imposition of the countervailing duty, the differential between Canadian and U.S. hog markets has remained well within historical ranges," he says.

(Cont'd)

Seasonal pressure on hog prices (cont'd)

Shipments of hogs out of Alberta are expected to increase in the short term because long term supply contracts between Alberta pork producers and regional slaughter facilities have expired. Those shipments, says Gietz, will have a bigger impact on Alberta producers than the countervailing duty on pork exports to the U.S.

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Contact: Ron Gietz
427-5376

August 21, 1989
For immediate release

Understanding farm income projections

Most of the recent headlines about Alberta farm income projections have focused on only one statistic and omitted background information critical to understanding farm income projections says the head of Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch.

"As a result there has been considerable misunderstanding about farm income projections," says Chuck Sterling. "Most articles have keyed on what was incorrectly termed 'cash income' with the suggestion that Alberta farm cash income was projected to decrease 26 per cent in 1989. Unfortunately, the words 'cash income' were used rather than 'net cash income' and this is where the problem lies."

Alberta farmers are expected to receive just over $4.3 billion in farm income in 1989. The correct term for farm income is "farm cash receipts". The $4.3 billion estimate for 1989 farm cash receipts is only 2.7 per cent less than 1988's record amount of $4.446 billion.

"Farm cash receipts for 1989 will still be above the long term average, so the outlook for agriculture in Alberta remains favorable, not the gloom and doom implied in recent articles," says Sterling. Alberta farm cash receipts haven't varied significantly over the past five years, he says.

The confusion starts with not distinguishing between "farm cash receipts" and "net cash income", he says. Farm cash receipts are the income received from the sale of farm products. Net cash income goes one step further. It's the money remaining after producers purchase their cash inputs and pay their bills such as taxes, rent, interest, electricity, heating, fuel, telephone and a range of other cash expenses. Net cash income can change significantly from year to year.

"Ironically when net cash income drops, it usually reflects optimism about the future of agriculture. That's what is happening in 1989," he says.

(Cont'd)

Understanding farm income projections (cont'd)

Net cash income for 1989 is estimated at $1.26 billion, down 26 per cent from the record level of $1.6 billion in 1988.

"The reason net cash income is forecast to decrease this year goes back to conditions last year. Last spring producers were pessimistic about the future of agriculture. Dry conditions prevailed and the threat of drought was real.

"Grain prices had been down for several years and the amount of unsold grain still in storage on farms was increasing. The future looked dim and producers didn't increase their production, many even cut back," says Sterling.

Dry conditions in 1988 extended across the grain producing regions of Canada and the U.S. The extensive drought sharply increased grain prices. Total crop receipts increased by ten per cent in Alberta. Combined with increased livestock receipts, 1988 farm cash receipts were a record total.

"This put more dollars in farmers pockets and prompted them to increase their expenses in a variety of ways from seeding more acres to replacing equipment and buying land. With this increase in total expenses, net farm income was pushed down," says Sterling.

"Alberta farmers and ranchers make decisions about their current and future income situations. By altering their production and purchasing decisions, they can adjust their present and future cash receipts. Expenses are increased if more land is put into crop or livestock is sent to market at an older age. All the decisions about buying and selling equipment, machinery, breeding stock and land affect income and expenses.

"Income and expenses are adjusted to accommodate what has happened or is expected to happen over several years. When income is favorable, farmers expand and have more expenses. When the outlook isn't bright, they reduce expenses to ensure there will be money to see them through," he says.

(Cont'd)

Understanding farm income projections (cont'd)

While farm cash receipts are the income received from the sale of farm products, not all receipts for a given calendar year are from the sale of commodities sold during that year, notes Sterling. For example, a grain farmer who sold wheat through the Canadian Wheat Board in August 1987 would have received an initial payment in August 1987 and wouldn't have received a final payment until early in 1989. The grain sold in 1987 might have been grown in 1986 and held over as inventory. The same time delay between production and sale can also hold true in the livestock industry.

Farm income statistics are the result of collective decisions of Alberta farmers and ranchers.

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Contact: Chuck Sterling
427-4011

August 21, 1989
For immediate release

Alberta 4-Hers attend Club Week '89

Almost 100 4-H club members from across Alberta shared a unique experience at the 47th annual Club Week program at Olds College in July.

"This year's theme, 'A maze within', provided the 98 delegates with an opportunity for personal growth and development. Through both large and small group interactions and a variety of guest speakers, delegates examined their personal relationships with friends, family and most importantly themselves," says Anita Styba, provincial 4-H personal development specialist.

Club Week delegates are exposed to a variety of situations and exercises dealing with communication, stereotyping, goal setting, decision making and self-esteem. Guest speakers show members how to deal with peer pressure as well as the importance of "celebrating" the differences between individuals rather than exploiting them.

"Thanks to the continuing sponsorship of Alberta Wheat Pool, United Grain Growers, Agriculture Canada and Alberta Agriculture, Club Week continues to be a great experience in the lives of 4-H members," says Styba.

Club Week is a provincial program for members between the ages of 15 and 21 and is a one time only experience.

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Contact: Anita Styba
422-4444

August 21, 1989
For immediate release

4-Hers attend 2nd annual PDP program

For 81 4-H members from across Alberta, a recent personal development program was both informative and fun.

The delegates, aged 13 and 14, took part in the second annual People Developing People (PDP) program at the Battlelake Provincial 4-H Centre in late July.

Delegates chose two special interest sessions to attend during the week. The list of choices included: outdoor camping; recreation; crafts; modes of communication; music and motion; and, personal health and hygiene. The 4-H members are partially responsible for choosing the material used in the sessions.

Through small and large group interactions, delegates were also exposed to a variety of situations and exercises with a personal development focus.

This year's theme, "The challenge is mine in '89", focused on peer pressure, self-esteem, leisure education and values. Closely related to values was a presentation on environmental awareness and conservation, by Paul Weeks, environmental specialist with Husky Oil.

Program sponsors are Husky Oil, Alberta Wheat Pool, United Grain Growers, Agriculture Canada and Alberta Agriculture.

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Contact: Anita Styba
422-4444

AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA
SEP 19 1989

August 28, 1989

For immediate release

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Information Services Division

August 28, 1989
For immediate release

Positive wheat price and delivery outlook

This crop year is expected to be a positive one for selling wheat says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"The 1989-90 crop year looks positive for Prairie farmers, both in terms of price and delivery opportunities," says Charlie Pearson in his quarterly situation and outlook.

A larger 1989 Canadian wheat crop will allow the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) to undertake a larger 1989-90 export program, he says. Prospects for an average 1989 crop, coupled with an extremely small Canadian wheat carryover, means quota won't restrict wheat delivery opportunities, says Pearson.

Pearson says Canadian spring wheat prices are expected to be very similar to the 1988-89 crop year. He says he anticipates adjusted/final payments of $40/tonne for this crop year. The current Alberta based CWB initial payment for 1 Canada Western hard red spring wheat is $137/tonne, down $17 from 1988-89.

Durum wheat prices are expected to lose their price premium over other classes with increased supplies of domestic and world durum wheat. With adjusted and final payments, CWB 1 amber durum wheat should pay Alberta farmers $172/tonne, says Pearson.

Local feedmill wheat prices will depend on the quality of the Prairie wheat crop, he says. "A high quality crop would likely see feedmill bids in the $140 to 150/tonne range. That's similar to the past year's prices. An early frost would likely drop prices to $110/tonne or a 20 per cent premium to forecast barley prices."

A tight demand-supply balance continues in the world marketplace. While world production for 1989-90 is estimated at a record 533 million tonnes, consumption is also expected to increase. As a result, the world wheat carryover is expected to decline by four million tonnes to 112 million tonnes.

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Contact: Charlie Pearson
427-5386

August 28, 1989
For immediate release

Canola prices to improve over winter

Larger South American and U.S. oilseed crops will hold international prices below last year's levels says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"For Alberta canola producers, the combination of higher world oilseed production, a large July 31, 1989 Canadian canola carryover and the prospects for a large 1989 crop will hold Prairie prices below those of the 1988-89 crop year," says Charlie Pearson in his quarterly situation and outlook.

It's estimated Canadian farmers seeded almost 20 per cent fewer acres to canola this spring than in 1988, notes Pearson. Improved cereal grain prices accounted for much of the decline.

Pearson says canola prices are expected to be lowest in the fall. Winnipeg canola futures have posted steady declines since July, 1988 and the trend is expected to continue into the next quarter, he says. Prices are expected to move higher through the winter as the world oilseed trade picks up.

"Although prices are expected to strengthen through the winter, they aren't expected to reach the same levels as last year. March contract futures prices will be in the $310 to $330/tonne range. Basis levels in the $50/tonne range would result in local cash prices of $260 to $280 per tonne," says Pearson.

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Contact: Charlie Pearson
427-5386

August 28, 1989
For immediate release

Production pressures feedgrain prices

International feedgrain prices have fallen this summer as good weather promised larger U.S. production than the drought reduced total of 1988 says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"World coarse grain prices are expected to bottom out in the fall and rise in the winter. Price improvement will come as production volumes become known and major importers begin their buying programs," says Charlie Pearson in his quarterly situation and outlook.

Despite the forecast of increased production, world barley supplies are expected to remain relatively tight and international prices are expected to retain their premium to corn.

"For Alberta barley producers feed barley prices are expected to increase from current levels over the winter, but average ten to 20 per cent lower than for the previous crop year," Pearson says. A combination of adjustment and final CWB payments of $20 to $30/tonne will give an Alberta based total payment of $85 to $95, he says.

Increased U.S. production will reduce the need for Canadian feed oats imports south of the border. Total Canadian oat exports are expected to be 40 per cent less than last year declining to 400,000 tonnes. Steady demand is still expected for premium quality milling and horse feed oats markets.

Pearson says prices to Alberta farmers for 3CW oats are expected to average between $90 and $100/tonne during the winter.

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Contact: Charlie Pearson
427-5386

August 28, 1989
For immediate release

Conservation program targets permanent cover

An ambitious $8.2 million program will help Alberta farmers convert their marginal and highly erodible farmland to permanent cover to stem growing losses from soil erosion and salinity.

The Alberta Permanent Cover Program, a three-year program administered by the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA), is part of the $34.8 million Canada/Alberta Soil Conservation Initiative signed by the two governments in July.

The permanent cover program offers the province's farmers an alternative use for approximately 900,000 acres of eligible land. By converting the land to perennial grass or legumes or by planting trees, the land can be used for grazing, hay, seed production or wildlife habitat.

"This gives farmers a chance to get some return from the land without causing long-term soil damage," says Gerry Luciuk, manager of the PFRA's program planning division.

"Farmers have already expressed considerable interest," he adds. "Perhaps permanent cover on these poorer lands is finally being perceived as a more dependable alternative than annual cropping in the long term."

Farmers with eligible land can receive a $20 per acre payment in option one of the program. This will help cover the costs of seeding forage. Luciuk points out this amount may only cover part of a farmer's cost. "It may cost him $40 per acre," he says.

In option two, farmers must submit a bid representing the price that they would need as a one time payment to keep their marginal land in permanent cover for either ten or 21 years. This one time payment is over and above the $20 per acre payment of option one. Bids for ten or 21 year contracts will be assessed after the December 1, 1989 application deadline. Acceptable bid levels will be established for each region of the province based on available funds, says Luciuk.

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A third program option allows conservation organizations to acquire eligible marginal land and convert it to an alternative use such as wildlife habitat or recreation.

Application forms are available from PFRA offices, Alberta Agriculture district offices and Agricultural Service Boards. "Despite the program's obvious positive impact and its multi-million dollar price tag, there is still more eligible land out there than money," says Luciuk. The program will run for three years subject to availability of funds.

"We'll be reviewing applications as they're received," he says, "But producers who wish to enter into ten or 21 year contracts must submit bid applications by December 1, 1989."

Over the past two decades increasing acreages of poorer quality land have been put into production, says John Hermans, head of Alberta Agriculture's conservation and development branch. "With the past several drought years, it has been hard to effectively manage these lands. Low yields common to these lands result in insufficient residue to prevent soil degradation."

Soil degradation has been a concern across the Prairies since pioneers settled in Alberta more than a century ago. It's estimated Alberta has 35 per cent of the Prairies' marginal agricultural land. Saskatchewan has half and Manitoba 15 per cent.

Federal studies during the last three years have labelled soil erosion as an agricultural crisis in Canada. Coupled with drought, traditional farm practices have caused increased soil losses over the past decade. Soil conservation programs are aimed at making farmers aware of alternatives and stemming those losses.

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Contact: Jack Hazelwood
422-4385

P.H. Larson
PFRA, Hanna
854-4448

August 28, 1989
For immediate release

Next CARTT application deadline October 6

Individuals or organizations planning a conservation project for next year, and who would like assistance from the Canada/Alberta Agreement on Soil, Water and Cropping Research and Technology Transfer (CARTT) agreement should submit applications by October 6.

"This deadline date is for CARTT Component B project proposals. The applications must be in the hands of regional soil conservation co-ordinators by October 6. This deadline is for project activities that will start after January 1, 1990," says Russel Horvey, provincial CARTT co-orindator.

"Applicants who are looking ahead at projects for later in 1990 are also welcome to apply. In fact, we encourage you to apply early because it helps us with our planning and budgeting," adds Horvey.

Applicants who received CARTT Component B funding last fall for on-going projects that will need funding again next year, are also encouraged to resubmit their updated project proposals before the October 6 deadline.

Application forms are available from Alberta Agriculture district offices, Agriculture Service Board fieldmen and Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) offices. The application forms are also available by contacting regional co-ordinators or Alberta Agriculture regional offices in Lethbridge, Airdrie, Red Deer, Vermilion, Barrhead and Fairview.

CARTT's objective is to develop and transfer appropriate conservation tillage and cropping technology which will minimize soil degradation and sustain economic crop production.

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Contact: Russel Horvey
422-4385

August 28, 1989
For immediate release

Alberta horses showcased at Equi-Fair

A showcase of Alberta horses is one of the main attractions at Spruce Meadows September 6 through 10.

"Alberta Breeds for the World" features 17 breeds of horses. "It's an opportunity to find out more about the different breeds--what they do, what they look like and where you can buy one," says provincial horse specialist Bob Coleman.

Breed association representatives will be on hand with booths and exhibits. Three demonstration rings will show off the diverse abilities of the various horses. "A child riding a Welsh pony, a Percheron team pulling a wagon, sport horses jumping over fences and walking horses showing their distinctive gaits are some of the planned demonstrations," he says.

The sale barn that debuted in 1988 will return in 1989. "The barn will have horses for sale. Not all of the 17 breeds will be represented in the sale barn, but certainly there will be opportunity to talk to breeders around the province if you are interested in buying a horse from a breed that isn't at the sale barn," says Coleman.

Horse enthusiasts will also have the opportunity to learn more about selecting a recreational horse, taking riding lessons and developmental growth problems in young horses through educational seminars offered Wednesday through Friday.

The Masters show jumping competition and the Equi-Fair trade show of horses and horse related products are the two other major attractions at Spruce Meadows.

The Masters is the richest show jumping competition in the world. Sunday afternoon's du Maurier Classic is the crowning event of the international show jumping activities. "Competition is keen, horses are world class, fences are tough and it's really something to watch," says Coleman.

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Alberta horses showcased at Equi-Fair (cont'd)

Over 200 exhibitors at Equi-Fair will display better ways to keep, look after and enjoy horses with everything from horse trailers and fencing to grooming and riding equipment.

"All the activities are tremendous entertainment, especially for a family. It's great entertainment value with the flat rate grounds entrance fee for a car load," says Coleman.

A special feature of this year's Equi-Fair is a noon hour parade in Calgary on September 5. Always a popular part of parades, horses will take the full spotlight in the Tuesday parade through downtown Calgary. Floats depicting Alberta's horse heritage to the international cast of riders will take part in the parade.

Spruce Meadows is located one km south of Calgary on Highway 2 and two km west on Highway 22X.

For more information about Equi-Fair activities contact the horse industry branch in Calgary at 297-6650, in Edmonton at 427-8905 or Spruce Meadows at 254-3200.

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Contact: Bob Coleman
427-8905

Les Burwash
297-6650

August 28, 1989
For immediate release

Horse and horsemanship clinics part of Equi-Fair

Horse enthusiasts will have the opportunity to learn more about selecting a recreational horse, taking riding lessons and development growth problems in young horses through free educational seminars offered during Equi-Fair at Spruce Meadows.

"People who are looking for a horse, but aren't sure of what criteria they should use to choose their horse would really benefit from the seminar given by Peter Fraser," says Bob Coleman, horse specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

The seminar will focus on disposition, attitude, training and conformation requirements to make the horse safe and enjoyable for recreational riders. It will be offered twice, first on Wednesday, September 6 at 4:30 p.m. and again on Thursday, September 7 at 1:30 at the Alberta Breeds for the World show ring.

Two coaches will give seminars on English and Western riding. Muffy Knox and Trish Mrakwa will explain riding level and certified coaching programs.

"The sport of riding is developing programs like other sports with recognized levels of achievement for young athletes and their coaches. The two certified coaches will explain what riding capabilities are expected at the various levels," says Coleman.

This seminar will focus on what students in riding programs should expect from their riding lessons. "Parents with children in riding programs or parents contemplating the idea will find this seminar very worthwhile," says Coleman.

The riding seminar will also be offered twice at the Alberta Breeds for the World show ring. Seminar times are Wednesday afternoon at 2:30 p.m. and Friday at 5 p.m.

A third clinic, on development growth problems in young horses' bones and tendons, will be in Hall D on Wednesday evening at 6 p.m. Dr. Dan French, of the Okotoks Animal Clinic, will talk about understanding and managing developmental problems that occur in bones, joints and tendons of young horses.

(Cont'd)

Horse and horsemanship clinics part of Equi-Fair

French, a former Western College of Veterinary Medicine equine fellow, will talk about epiphysites, angular limb deformities, osteochondrosis (OCD) and contracted tendons. All are developmental orthopedic diseases.

"Many experts have called this the horse industry's disease syndrome of the '80's. It's a concern to all breeders of quality horses," says Les Burwash, supervisor of the horse industry branch.

More information about the seminars is available by contacting the horse industry branch in Calgary at 297-6650 or in Edmonton at 427-8905.

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Contact: Bob Coleman
427-8905

Les Burwash
297-6650

August 28, 1989
For immediate release

Improvement program identifies best in horse breeds

This year's Alberta Horse Improvement program is on two consecutive September weekends at the Westerner in Red Deer.

Eleven breeds are represented at the program designed to identify superior horses, breeders and trainers in the province. Alberta Agriculture's horse industry branch, in co-operation with a committee from participating breed associations, has been running the program for the last 15 years.

The 1989 program features: Arabian, partbred Arabian and walking horse classes on September 16; American Saddlebred, Morgan, Pinto, sport horse and Welsh pony and Cob classes on September 17; Quarter Horse classes on September 23; and, Appaloosa and Paint classes on September 24.

"The Alberta horse improvement program is different than the typical horses show. Horses are judged against a breed standard rather than against other horses in the ring," says Bob Coleman, provincial horse specialist.

Two horse show judges and an equine veterinarian score each horse on conformation and performance. Conformation includes five categories: front limbs; hind limbs; head, neck, body and balance; movement; and, type. Performance patterns test the athletic ability, temperament and training potential of the young horses. Score sheet appraisals are mailed to the entrants.

One of the goals of the horse improvement program is education. Coleman says it's hoped the evaluations will be used as an educational tool by breeders and owners.

"One of the program's overall goals is improving the quality of Alberta bred horses. The program is achieving that through both education and identification of superior horses, breeders and trainers," says Coleman. He adds establishing markets for Alberta bred markets is another program objective.

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Improvement program identifies best in horse breeds (cont'd)

Alberta born and Alberta owned rules are in effect in the classes.

Program judges will Dave Whitaker, of Murfreesboro, Tennessee (September 16 and 17); Louis McKim, of Aldergrove, British Columbia (September 16 and 17); Stephen Jackson, of Lexington, Kentucky (September 23 and 24); Bill Englund, Jr, Cashion, Arizona (September 23 and 24); and, Dr. Lyle Wonderlich, Nampa, Idaho (all classes).

Entry forms for the program must be received by the horse industry branch by September 1. Members of the breed associations were mailed information about the program.

For more information about the Alberta Horse Improvement program contact the horse industry branch in Calgary at 297-6650 or in Edmonton at 427-8905.

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Contact: Bob Coleman
427-8905

Les Burwash
297-6650

August 28, 1989
For immediate release

Russian wheat aphids reappear at border

Russian wheat aphids that first appeared at the Alberta-Montana border last year reappeared there in mid-August says an Alberta Agriculture entomologist.

"Low numbers have been found in barley crops near the border. There's no danger to spring cereals as most have already matured beyond the soft dough stage," says Jim Jones. Currently Russian wheat aphids can be found in most fields of late-planted grain in the County of Warner.

Federal and provincial scientists will continue to monitor Russian wheat aphid populations in cereal and grasses. "The threat now is to winter wheat crops. The nature of the threat depends on the number and distribution of aphids," says Jones.

Russian wheat aphid populations are building and dispersing, Jones says. "Farmers south of Highway 3 who are planning to plant winter wheat should be cautious. They should wait to plant at least until the spring cereals have been harvested. Aphids flying out of maturing cereal crops will heavily infest a stand of seedling winter wheat. Russian wheat aphids can kill a cereal crop outright or reduce the crop's winter hardiness and yield."

Jones says spraying the insects isn't necessary unless aphid numbers make it economical. If 15 per cent of winter wheat or fall rye plants are infested or show aphid damage, the crops should be treated, he says.

More needs to be known about the insect that damages wheat, barley and triticale host plants, says Jones. "Russian wheat aphid populations virtually died out by the end of March in southern Alberta, but not before showing some incredible cold weather hardiness."

Russian wheat aphids are indigenous to the Mediterranean and the southern USSR and were accidentally introduced to North America in central Mexico in 1980. The pest was first found in Alberta in the Milk River area in July, 1988.

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Russian wheat aphids reappear at border (cont'd)

Other types of aphids have caused problems in southern Alberta this crop year. "Farmers in the County of Warner have been spraying corn leaf aphids on cereal crops," says Jones.

Dry conditions have played a role in the infestations, he adds. "Moisture stressed crops are more susceptible to aphid damage and aphid populations increase as they feed on those crops."

Jones also says recent research has indicated the economic threshold chemical control of cereal aphids may be lower than previously thought. "In researching the economics of spraying you have to compare yields in treated and untreated crops at different levels of insect infestation and under different growing conditions. It's difficult to decide when to spray for aphids because the damage they cause is usually not apparent," he says.

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Contact: Jim Jones
362-3391

August 28, 1989
For immediate release

Conservation and development branch appointment

A long time Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist has joined the conservation and development branch as head of the program co-ordination section.

Jack Hazelwood will co-ordinate activities related to two federal-provincial conservation agreements. The agreements are the Canada/Alberta Agreement on Soil, Water and Cropping Research and Technology Transfer (CARTT) and the Canada/Alberta Soil Conservation Initiative (CASCI).

JACK HAZELWOOD

"Conservation and conservation awareness is vital to continued prosperity in our agricultural industry. I look forward to being part of the co-operative effort between farmers, researchers and government agencies," says Hazelwood.

Hazelwood spent 11 years in Three Hills as the area district agriculturist. He holds a BSc in agriculture degree from the University of Alberta. Hazelwood has a dryland farming background. His family farmed in the New Bridgen area in east central Alberta.

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Contact: Jack Hazelwood
422-4385

August 28, 1989
For immediate release

Agri-News Briefs

OLDE TYME FAMILY SHEEP FAIR

In pioneer days a sheep and wool fair was a family event. The spirit of those fairs is recaptured in the Olde Tyme Family Sheep and Wool Fair September 9 and 10 at the Westerner Agriplex in Red Deer. Activities are kicked off with sheep dog trials on Saturday morning and end Sunday evening with a shawl auction and ewe lamb sale. Between those events are shearing demonstrations, a fleece competition, a novelty sheep lead, lamb judging, an angora goat (mohair) display, wool crafts, miniature donkey and llama display, commercial booths, breed displays and spinning and weaving demonstrations. An event that demonstrates practical skills is the sheep-to-shawl contest. Teams compete at hectic pace to turn the wool on a sheep's back into a shawl. Team members include a shearer, spinners and a weaver. Hand-crafted items provide an opportunity for early Christmas shopping. Puppet shows, games and clowns will also provide entertainment. Barbecued lamb is the highlight on the meal menu. The fair is staged by volunteers from several Alberta sheep producer associations with support and assistance from Alberta Agriculture, the Alberta Sheep and Wool Commission and Custom Woolen Mills. Demonstrating the high quality of Alberta lamb and wool is the main objective of the fair. Alberta, with a flock of almost 90,000 ewes, is the largest producer of market lambs in Canada. The largest lamb slaughtering facility in Canada is Lambco in Innisfail. For more information contact Allan Brown in Lacombe at 337-2221.

CARE IN HANDLING PIGS

"Fragile--Handle with Care", a new video in the Alberta Agriculture film library, discusses ways to reduce porcine stress. Human interaction with pigs, reducing stress in handling, design of loading out area and ramps, trucking concerns and reducing shipping losses are

(Cont'd)

CARE IN HANDLING PIGS (Cont'd)

topics in the ten-minute video. While the video isn't a comprehensive guide, it is a good discussion starter for producer groups. Although produced by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, specific references to Ontario are minimal. To book the video contact the Alberta Agriculture Film Library at 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T6H 5T6 and quote number 440-1 VT.